Partners unveil APC machines on Saipan. PAGE 2
Woman busted for unlicensed money transmitting business. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Autopsy affirms toxic gas deaths

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The autopsy on the remains of the three workers who were killed while working inside a sewer well in San Antonio has corroborated police investigators' initial findings that they died due to toxic gas exposure.

» Source says victims not wearing protective gear; DPS finds no foul play, considers case closed

A source disclosed that Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola's autopsy showed that the three victims all died of asphyxia due to hydrogen sulfide inhalation.

See AUTOPSY on Page 4



EXERCISE MECCA
The Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway attracts fitness hobbyists to jog along its 5-kilometer stretch.
ERWIN ENCINARES

HANMI occupancy at 91 pct. in June

HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The hotel association has reported a 91.16-percent occupancy among 11 member-hotels in June 2017, a 4-percent increase compared to June 2016.

Average room rates were at $131.08 during the month, compared to $126.94 last June.

Also, a total of 63,431 of 69,580 available room nights were sold

See HANMI on Page 4

Charitable group robbed

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A charitable organization based on Saipan, the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, was broken into last Saturday and authorities are now investigating the matter.

The suspect or suspects are accused of stealing four conventional ovens and a gas stove. The appliances were intended to serve as prizes for the foundation's "Top Chef Competition" event.

According to the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation founder Rose Smith, the items were all inside the organization's storage room.

Although authorities are now looking into the case, Smith herself has her own suspicions. She believes the culprit is a client who had visited one of the organization's outreach pro-

See CHARITABLE on Page 4

NMTI: Transfer of CW fees may close school

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

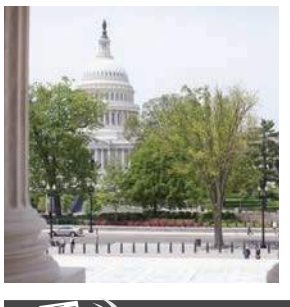
The Northern Marianas Trades Institute opposes a plan to transfer the fees taken from each CW-1 application to the CNMI Scholarship Office, arguing that this would ultimately lead to the demise of the vocational school.

In a letter to Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres said that transferring the funds from the CNMI Department of Labor to the CNMI Scholarship Office—as outlined by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in his fiscal year 2018 budget—would prevent trade schools like NMTI from "expanding their current program offerings to meet the manpower workforce training demand."

Without prior planning, this

See NMTI on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS
Millions who rely on Social Security will receive their biggest increase this January.
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NATION
A flash flood kills nine people in an Arizona river canyon.
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LIFE & STYLE
"Dunkirk " is not a typical war movie.
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Local



Local and federal partners unveil the first ever automated passport control machines at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport on June 17, 2017. From left are Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Chris Tenorio, China Ad Hoc Committee chair Tom Liu, U.S. Customs and Border Protection port director Robert Havens, Imperial Pacific International Ltd. shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie, IPI's VP of Client Services Henan Ma, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris A. Concepcion, and CPA board vice chair Thomas Villagomez.

MVA



Local and federal partners unveil the automated passport control machines at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport on June 17, 2017. From left are Commonwealth Ports Authority deputy executive director Edward Mendiola, Imperial Pacific International Ltd. VP of Client Services Henan Ma, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris A. Concepcion, MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, CPA board vice chair Thomas Villagomez, IPI shareholder Margaret Cui Lijie, U.S. Customs and Border Protection port director Robert Havens, CPA executive director Chris Tenorio, and China Ad Hoc Committee chair Tom Liu.

MVA

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Partners unveil APC machines on Saipan

Local and federal partners came together on Monday to unveil the first ever automated passport control machines at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan Saipan International Airport.

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Imperial Pacific International Ltd., which provided funding for the machines, joined the Commonwealth Ports Authority, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the MVA China Ad Hoc Committee in the brief ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The machines are expected to ease immigration processing times and are available for use by U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, U.S. B1 and B2 visa holders, ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) holders, and crew members. They should be able to complete their immigration processing using the machine in less than two minutes.

The MVA provided funding for four of the machines. In response to an appeal to its members, IPI donated nearly $140,000 for the purchase of three more machines.

"This is a great example of public and private sector partners coming together to solve problems facing our tourism industry," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We are optimistic that with these machines, and some other changes being implemented at the airport, arriving visitors will be able to process through immigration and begin their holiday quicker."

"We hope that these APC machines will help lessen the wait times, as well as increase efficiency during the immigration process," said CPA executive director Chris Tenorio. "I would like to extend my appreciation to the Marianas Visitors Authority and all of its sponsors for contributing the necessary resources to purchase the newly installed APC machines. Thank you, Customs and Border Protection, for working hand in hand with the CPA to ensure that we address and resolve these issues without jeopardizing the CNMI's security and protection, and to the entire China Ad Hoc Committee for working diligently with all federal and local agencies to help improve our airport facilities."

It is expected that by the end of this year and once approved, the machines may also be available for use by individuals arriving under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program. ***(MVA)***

NMHC scrambles to address housing shortage

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp., a federally funded agency that helps residents who are below the poverty threshold to obtain affordable housing, is itself faced with issues relating to a shortage of housing units and workers to build them.

Its corporate director, Jesse Palacios, said that many residents have been affected by the shortage of affordable homes on island and the agency is no exception.

According to him, the two main factors contributing to the agency's insufficiency to provide housing is because the demand for housing is higher than the number of unit available, and more and more contract workers are leaving the islands, putting a strain on the development of new housing units.

A resident of Korean descent who agreed to speak on the condition that she only be identified as "Ms. Lee" said that she has also been affected many times by the lack of affordable housing. Based on her experiences, she believes the housing shortage is due to foreign investors leasing several properties on the islands. She and her family have been forced to vacate their homes four times already.

According to Lee, there are a few positive points for the local economy but the cons definitely outweigh the pros.

The worst experience Lee has had with the issue was when she was forced to leave her rented house within a month. She and her family were not informed beforehand and finding a new home within the month was nearly impossible.

"It was hectic and tiring," Lee added.

The issue is prompting NMHC to review its plans to reopen and renovate foreclosed properties.

Aside from housing, the corporation is responsible for many public development projects. That includes the renovation of the Oleai track and field beside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. NMHC was also responsible for building the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Another project recently completed by NMHC is the Koblerville Gym across the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, the renovation to the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium, and the building of the Kiosku Municipal Council in Chalan Kanoa.

Charges vs man accused of sexual abuse are dismissed

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found no probable cause yesterday to charge a 49-year-old man of sexually abusing two minors.

At the preliminary hearing in the case against Miguel Cecilio Arrozal, Camacho determined that assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio, counsel for the government, failed to ask any questions as to two counts of disturbing the peace.

As to two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, Camacho said that Tenorio failed to ask any questions as to the identification of Arrozal and his age.

"The government failed to prove essential elements as to all four counts," said the judge. He dismissed the four charges without prejudice, which means the prosecution may refile the case in the future.

Camacho vacated the July 24 arraignment and ordered Arrozal's release from custody.

Assistant public defender Jamal Saleh is counsel for Arrozal.

The prosecution called to the witness stand the officer in charge of the case, detective Catherine Pangelinan.

Arrozal was accused of sexually abusing two girls, aged 8 and 10, in May on Saipan.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Attorney General has filed two counts of disturbing the peace charges against Darwin Barbo, a 34-year-old hotel employee accused by a woman of kissing and inappropriately touching her in an elevator last June 28.

Barbo, through assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit, pleaded not guilty on Monday.

A status conference will be held on Sept. 11, 2017.

According to assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub in the information, Barbo touched the victim in an offensive manner, causing her to push him away.

Weintraub said Barbo also followed the victim against her will, causing her to become afraid. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



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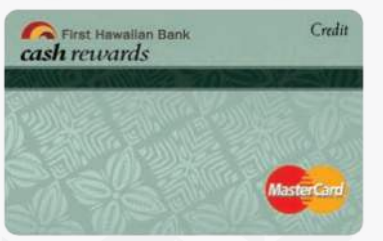


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Surveys bring new hope for drought stricken communities

SUVA, Fiji—People residing in two drought-prone sugarcane areas on Fiji's main island, Viti Levu, are a step closer to accessing more reliable water supplies, following the recent completion of hydrogeological surveys.

The surveys, conducted by a Water Resources team from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Geoscience Division, have mapped new sources of underground water in Qerelevu and Nanuku-Wailevu.

The initiative, funded by the European Union and implemented through the SPC's Micro Projects Program, was carried out near a number of communities who are yet to be connected to the Water Authority of Fiji network and have a history of water shortages.

"Access to safe, reliable water for drinking and farming is essential for healthy, productive communities. Due to the increased demand and the impact of extreme weather events, this access remains a challenge for some communities. Sources of groundwater can be tapped to help meet demand, but it takes expert knowledge, specialist equipment and sustainable management. The European Union is proud to support the process of turning these potential resources into a reality—now and for future generations," said Emmanuelle Guihenuf of the European Union delegation for the Pacific and head of Economic and Social Issues, Coordination of Regional Programs Section.

SPC's Water Resources adviser, Peter Sinclair, said the surveys—which use sophisticated geophysical electrical resistivity equipment—have detected places where there are likely to be sources of fresh underground water that could be potentially tapped.

"The areas surveyed currently rely on a combination of collected rainwater, springs, or shallow wells. During extended dry periods, collected rainfall is insufficient and the yield from the springs or shallow groundwater is reduced or dries up completely. Families and communities then rely upon water carting or sharing from those few neighbors with springs that maintain water flows," Sinclair said.

"Groundwater from deeper sources has the distinct advantage that it is less impacted by droughts and cyclones, and so it offers greater reassurance of a safe water supply. Under the Micro Project Program's philosophy of 'build back better,' the information gained from these surveys will help these disaster-prone communities to become more resilient," he added.

Identifying the sources of new water supplies is just the first step in the process but it is a significant one as the information can be used to develop future water supply systems as needed.

Pumping tests from the drilled bores would also need to be carried out. This would assess the volume and quality of water to ensure that the groundwater resource can be developed in a sustainable way and meet local needs.

"The best approach for ensuring safe and resilient water supply to rural areas is to work within the physical and social limitations of the communities for which the water supplies will be used, operated and maintained," Sinclair said.

Further surveys are planned for four selected communities in Ba, Tavua and Rakiraki later this year. ***(SPC)***

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Registration at Francisco M. Sablan Middle School

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School is reminding that all students, new and returning, must register for school year 2017-2018. Returning students must submit a registration form, medical clearance (blue card), and student insurance.

In addition to the three requirements, new students must submit their birth certificate, copy of last report card from the previous school year, transfer out form (if applicable), and map of residence.

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School school zone is south of DPA Car Mart to Koblerville (south of St. Jude Church) and includes the As Gonno area.

All registration forms must be submitted at the office. Upon submission, the office staff will provide free meal applications.

The school supplies lists are available at National Office, Modern Stationary, and at FMS Middle School. ***(PR)***

WSR now accepting registrations

William S. Reyes Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians will need the following documents: updated health certificate, updated student insurance/Medicaid, birth certificate (new students), legal guardianship documents (if applicable/must be issued by a U.S. court system; affidavit and power of attorney do not apply). If legal guardianship documents were issued by a foreign court system, all documents must be translated and certified through a U.S. court system. Visit the school to register. Contact the school at 664-3972 or 237-3542. ***(PR)***

HANMI

From Page 1

in June 2017, compared to 60,382 of 69,420 available room nights sold over the same period last year.

"The economy continues to grow, as evidenced by higher average hotel occupancy and room rates in June," said Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh.

"At the same time, it's a positive sign that our HANMI members continue to increase their number of U.S-eligible employees," Cavanagh said

She pointed out that 54 percent of all hotel employees in June 2017 were U.S-eligible workers, compared to less than 50 percent of total employees in June 2016.

"This is because of our continued commitment to hire and train available U.S-eligible workers," she said. "However, the need for foreign labor to sustain our hotel operations, grow our services, and thus our economy remains. We will always need foreign labor. This is evident in the [U.S. Government Accountability Office] report issued this year. We hope U.S. Congress acknowledges these efforts as they consider extending the CW visa waiver program."

HANMI members, along with other businesses on the islands, are working on compiling documents of their efforts to hire and train U.S.-eligible workers for presentation to Congress.

"Additionally, we commend the Senate for holding hearings on Senate Bill 20-35 last week, July 12," said Cavanagh. "In order to bring new investment into the CNMI, as well as maintaining and growing the existing leaseholds, this bill needs to be considered and passed by our Legislature and governor.

Senate Bill 20-35 seeks to extend public land leases in the CNMI by 40 years, with an option to extend another 35 years, for a total of 75 years. Current law restricts public land leases to just 55 years.

Cavanagh said that over 25 years of collected CNMI data shows that its tourism economy had a healthy occupancy of over 80 percent for only three years prior to the steady rise that started in 2013.

"In the other 17 years, our tourism economy had occupancy levels in the 70s, 60s, and even 50s. And that's why we see the results of the Feasibility and Sustainability Study done for [the] Marianas Visitors Authority this year, which shows the need for improvement of our hotel products," she added.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. It also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

NMTI

From Page 1

change could ultimately shut down NMTI, she added.

"… This new approach regarding [the] use of CW funds may cause NMTI to close down, thus leaving vocational and trades education in limbo once again," McPhetres said.

Transferring the funds could also possibly contradict Public Law 110-229, which mandates that the fees "shall be paid…for the purpose of funding ongoing vocational educational curricula and program development by the Commonwealth educational entities," McPhetres added.

"While the aim of this new approach regarding CW funding may be to give students increased financial resources to further their vocational and trades education, it prevents local vocational/trades entities from expanding their current program offerings to meet the manpower workforce training demand," she wrote.

McPhetres pointed out that, unlike the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College, which are financially assisted by the CNMI government, NMTI is "a fairly new endeavor" not supported by annual appropriations.

"By not being able to depend on an approved level of funding prior to the offering of classes, NMTI cannot make highly critical plans with regards to hiring qualified instructors and staff for program implementation," she said.

McPhetres further pointed out that students of NMC receive federal financial aid such as the Pell grant. Because of this, NMC may create plans to provide a "cushion during the implementation of this new strategy."

"Had the proposal given NMTI at least one fiscal year to transition, we could have created other strategies to alleviate some of the potentially adverse effects," she added.

'Greater transparency'

The Torres administration has defended the proposal, saying that moving the CW fees to the CNMI Scholarship Office was proposed in the fiscal year 2018 budget to "achieve greater transparency."

Under U.S. Public Law 110-229, CNMI employers pay $460 for each CW worker they want to hire. A portion of that, $150, goes back to the CNMI to fund the training of U.S. qualified workers.

According to a Torres administration statement, moving the administration of CW fees to the Scholarship Office will allow for "greater transparency with the disbursement of the funds [and] will also allow the Scholarship Office to develop a plan that accurately indicates the Commonwealth's goals of achieving a benchmark of educated and skilled workers."

Saipan Tribune has yet to sit down with the Scholarship Office to discuss their plans on how to allocate the CW fees.

Although administering the CW fees would fall on the CNMI Scholarship Office, the move "does not undermine the DOL's roles in workforce development," the administration said.

It reasoned that the Scholarship Office is the primary government agency for the disbursement of educational financial assistance for CNMI students and residents.

"The Scholarship Office, in collaboration with DOL, will make the funds available for seeking higher education and training, technical training, or vocational education and trades available offered by CNMI educational entities certified by DOL," the administration said, citing establishments that offer such courses such as NMC, NMTI, Latte Training Academy, Island Training Solutions, etc.

CHARITABLE

From Page 1

grams and that he or she may have been under the influence of drugs.

Right now, the foundation is awaiting the results of the investigation and for the release of more information.

Smith and the foundation are calling on the community for help in hopes of retrieving the stolen items. The organization can be reached at 483-0162.

EVMF is a faith-based organization that focuses on humanitarian work, like helping families in need. It also hosts the annual "Top Chef Competition," which honors the islands' junior chefs.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the foundation got started here on Saipan, with hopes of expanding the mission to care for orphans in Kenya, which the organization has done.

The organization has since expanded its mission to help, especially after Typhoon Soudelor that devastated the island in August 2015.

AUTOPSY

From Page 1

Acting chief prosecutor Matthew Baisley confirmed Espinola's findings with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. He did not elaborate.

Espinola did the autopsy at the Commonwealth Healthcare Center's morgue last Saturday.

The victims, identified as Ricky Quijano, 47; Amid Tapon, 41; and Danilo Paglinawan, 53, all Filipinos, worked for USA Fanter Corp.

The source said that hydrogen sulfide is a build up from human waste.

The source said that drowning was not a factor as the workers were already dead even before falling into the water.

The workers were killed while doing repair work inside a 24-foot sewer lift station of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. at Pakpak Beach in San Antonio last July 7.

DPS said its preliminary findings show that the workers were exposed to high levels of hydrogen sulfide gas inside the well.

DPS said other factors include wastewater presence that was about 6 to 7 inches deep, which may have possibly caused the victims to drown.

The source said that DPS has concluded that it was an accidental death and that there was no foul play.

DPS considers its investigation closed.

The source disclosed that the workers were not wearing protective gear.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration and CUC did their own investigations of the incident but the results have yet to be made public.

USA Fanter was subcontracted by CUC to perform rehabilitation work on the sewer.

The umbrella organization of Filipino groups in the CNMI, the United Filipino Organization, is currently leading a fund drive to benefit the victims' families.

Woman busted for unlicensed money transmitting business

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A woman used a jewelry store inside the now defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino as a front for an unlicensed money transmitting business in 2014 and 2015.

Federal agents on Saipan arrested Hong Mei Xu, 44, a Chinese national, on Aug. 12, 2016. She then pleaded guilty to conducting an unlicensed money transmitting business and the case was unsealed only yesterday.

According to the plea deal, the total amount of the illegal money transactions Xu conducted equaled at least $150,001 but no more than $249,000.

Xu conducted the unlicensed money transmitting business from Nov. 22, 2014, until Aug. 3, 2015.

During that period, Xu worked as the only employee of the Tinian Jewelry Store, a storefront inside the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. She had a key to the jewelry store and had access to the store 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Xu's name and contact information was prominently displayed on a placard at the entrance of the store. The sign advised potential clients to contact her if they wanted to exchange or transmit money.

Members of the public, generally gamblers at the Tinian Dynasty, would contact Xu to "buy jewelry" with their UnionPay credit card.

In reality, no jewelry was ever sold to the customers. Instead, they would receive cash back minus a small commission.

The commission would not be paid directly to Xu; rather, the fee would be added to the credit card transaction.

Customers would hand their credit card to Xu, who would ring up a sale for an amount specified by the customer. She would then hand the customer a receipt who would use this receipt to obtain cash from a safety deposit box kept at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

In that period, at least $501,800 in credit card transactions were completed at the Tinian Jewelry Store.

Xu performed at least 50 of these illegal money transmissions in which a customer was charged a fee.

At no time has the Tinian Jewelry Store or any subsidiary or parent company ever registered as a money transmitting business as required by law.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued the warrant of arrest for Xu on Aug. 5, 2016, shortly after the indictment was filed in court.

At the initial appearance hearing on Aug. 12, 2016, Manglona released the defendant on her own recognizance. She also set the jury trial for Oct. 18, 2016, and later to Nov. 29, 2016.

The jury trial did not push through because Xu signed a plea deal with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty to the crime on Nov. 10, 2016.

The sentencing was set for March 24, 2017, and later moved to Aug 25, 2017.

Manglona unsealed yesterday all documents and all proceedings in the case at the request of assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto.

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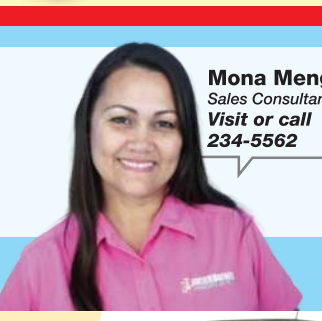


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2016 Kia Rio LX
Stk# G6576282
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 18026
Color: Platinum Graphite
$13,995



2015 Kia Soul LX
Stk# F7815565
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 23813
Color: Inferno Red
$14,495



2010 Ford Explorer Sport Trac XLT
Stk#AUF03224
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 43900
Color: Oxford White
$18,995



2011 Ford Ranger Sport Super Cab
Stk# BPA62697
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 48832
Color: Magnetic Gray
$18,995



2014 Ford Escape SE
Stk#EUB03527
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 Liter Ecoboost
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 12449
Color: Magnetic Gray
$19,995



2014 Nissan Frontier SV
Stk# EN765588
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 38812
Color: Brilliant Silver
$24,995



2014 Nissan Murano SL
Stk# EW411794
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26886
Color: Gun Metallic
$24,995



2015 Nissan Frontier S Crew Cab
Stk# FN763158
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 5200
Color: Brilliant Silver
$25,995



2015 Nissan Frontier SV Crew Cab
Stk# FN700457
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 24250
Color: Brilliant Silver
$25,995



2015 Nissan Frontier SV Crew Cab
Stk# FN700151
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 23361
Color: Arctic Blue
$25,995



2015 Nissan Frontier SV Crew Cab
Stk# FN700804
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 25000
Color: Gun Metallic
$26,995



2016 Ford F150 Super Crew Cab XL
Stk#GKD66328
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 5.0 Liter V8
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 8477
Color: Oxford White
$42,995



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Unfinished Business

IV. New Business
1. Head Start Program T&TA Supplemental Grant Application
2. PSS Organizational Chart
3. Audit 2016 Corrective Actions
4. PSS FY2018 Proposed Budget
5. Certification and Licensure Matters
   a. Proposed Certification Fees
   b. CLO Report No. 2017-008

V. Executive Session[3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel
3. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Vet benefits to expand in new GI bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday the introduction of a revised Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, expanding college aid for military veterans and allowing new veterans to use the educational benefit later in life, if they want to.

Sablan, a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, joined with every Committee member, Republican and Democrat, as an original cosponsor of the legislation.

Committee chair Phil Roe (R-Tennessee) is expected to bring the bill, H.R. 3218, to the committee for approval this week. Majority leader Kevin McCarthy (R-California) has promised a vote by the House of Representatives this month.

Expanding educational opportunity is a hallmark of Sablan's work in Congress. "Education is important for young and old," Sablan said, "for an individual's personal success and for the success of the Marianas community as a whole.

"Veterans especially, returning from service, can benefit from getting more education to help them re-enter civilian life. And being able to wait to use that benefit beyond the current 15-year limit, as this modernized Post-9/11 G.I. Bill allows for new veterans, gives them even more flexibility."

The bill also fine-tunes benefits in response to concerns brought to Sablan's attention by Marianas veterans. "We have had veterans, who lost their education benefits when they enrolled in a school that then closed in the middle of a semester, for instance," Sablan explained. "Under our new bill veterans would regain those benefits, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2015."

Post-9/11 reservists and guardsmen, who spent time on active duty under orders that did not allow for accrual of education benefits, will now be able to count that time toward the G.I. Bill. And the minimum benefit for veterans with less than 36 months of qualifying active service increases to 50 percent of the maximum amount payable.

"One of the best ways for members of Congress to understand how federal law may need to be changed is by listening to constituents," Sablan explained. "We are very fortunate that so many veterans in the Marianas have been willing to participate in the listening sessions that their congressional office has hosted. As a result, we know more about what vets need and could translate their needs into legislative action."

H.R. 3218 is the largest expansion of college aid for military veterans in over 10 years. It builds on the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill guarantee of a full-ride scholarship at public universities or the cash equivalent for veterans attending private institutions.

And there is a bonus for veterans studying science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. "STEM degree students would be eligible for either an additional nine months of study or a lump sum of $30,000," according to Sablan.

"We should do everything we can to help veterans get more education. They are an untapped resource for the Marianas economy, which needs trained, well-educated workers.

"Only about half of veterans nationwide go on to get a degree after service. But those who do have much better graduation rates than non-veteran students.

"This revised Post-9/11 G.I. Bill is going to get more veterans into college. And we will all benefit from that investment in the long run," Sablan said. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/SWMD17-RFP-001

PROCUREMENT OF SERVICE FOR REMOVAL, PACKAGING, CONTAINMENT, AND SHIPPING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS COLLECTED AT THE LOWER BASE TRANSFER STATION

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to Provide Procurement Services for removal, packaging, containment, and shipping of household hazardous waste materials collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station (LBTS), Saipan , Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CN1VII Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001 Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-210** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Scope of Work is available on or after **July 19, 2017** at the Solid Waste Management Division office, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division office, Lower Base Transfer Station on **August 09, 2017**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time **August 14, 2017**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-210** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Operation Plan – 40%
2. Past Experience on Similar Projects – 40%
3. Professional Qualifications – 10%
4. Financial Proposal – 10%

Cost is a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit of proposals. Technical merit is more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest priced proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase. Please include a project budget with your response.

Discussions may be conducted with the responsible firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being awarded for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements, Firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be p-ermitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing firms.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License in order to sign a contract.

Award shall be made to the responsible firm whose proposal is determined in writing to the most Advantageous to the CNI vll government taking into consideration price and evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/SWMD17-RFP-001"**. For Proposers within the CNIAI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m.. local time, **August 28, 2017** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNIVII may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 am, local time, **August 28, 2017**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the US. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 28, 2017** AND must be received no later than **September 06, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ ANTHONY S. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAB
Director, Procurement & Supply

Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
P.O. Box 59 San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952 • Tel: (670) 433-1800 • Fax: (670) 433-1819

INVITATION TO BID
ITB17-MOT-173
Tinian Lookout Observation Deck

Mayor of Tinian Joey Patrick San Nicolas is soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of the Tinian Lookout Observation Deck. The project package will be available on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at the following locations: Tinian Mayor's Office, San Jose Village, Tinian; and the Tinian Liaison Office, Navy Hill Rd, Navy Hill, Saipan. A $100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference and site inspection for this project on Monday, July 17, 2017, 10:00AM ChST at the Henry G. Hofschneider Conference Room at the Tinian Mayor's Office, San Jose Village, Tinian. Bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the project location and current condition. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST, Friday, July 21, 2017 to the CIP Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All responses to questions should be shared with other prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB17-MOT-173: Tinian Lookout Observation Deck"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:00 AM ChST Friday, August 4, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 AM ChST Friday, August 4, 2017 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Friday, August 4, 2017 and must be received no later than Friday, August 11, 2017. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST Friday, August 11, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 AM ChST Friday, August 11, 2017.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Two Hundred dollars ($200.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Joey Patrick San Nicolas
Tinian Mayor

Herman S. Sablan
Director, CNMI Procurement & Supply

Power outages on Thursday, Saturday

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Thursday, July 20, 2017, from 9am to 1pm.

There will be another power interruption on Saturday, July 22, 2017, from 5:30am to 10:30am.

The purpose of the power interruption on Thursday is to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace two wooden power poles with concrete poles in San Vicente on Isa Drive.

Saturday's power interruption is intended to de-energize primary lines to allow CUC line crew to replace four wooden power poles with concrete poles in Dandan on Flame Tree Road.

Both are part of an ongoing hazard mitigation project that involves replacing 787 wooden poles with concrete poles. A total of 287 wooden poles have already been replaced. That means there are 498 poles that still need to be replaced.

Areas to be affected by the Thursday outage are San Vicente's Isa Dr. (Kahida Pl., Laulau Bay Drive, Achon Ln., Railroad Dr., Sinagu Ln., Tininu Pl., Galak Dr., Makpong Pl., Pacific Heights Ln., Boya Pl., Galayan Pl., Mulberry Ln., Lantana Pl., Palai Way, Mapga Ln., Langit Ln., Berbena Dr., Pakko Ln., Golondrina Dr., and Nifen Ln.)

Saturday's power outage may affect water services in the affected areas: Lower Dandan (Holiday Dr., Independence Loop, and Natibu Pl.) and partials of Flame Tree Road. The IF-15 water well may be affected. However, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor the CUC Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation!). ***(PR)***

Yntema joins the OAG

Attorney General Edward Manibusan announced yesterday that Hessel Yntema IV has joined the Office of the Attorney General.

"We are pleased to welcome Mr. Yntema to our Civil Division team. He will be handling litigation matters and serve as counsel for several of our law enforcement agencies," said Manibusan.

A native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Yntema worked as an assistant city attorney in Albuquerque. He has handled civil rights cases, state and federal constitutional claims and real property matters. Yntema has also served as counsel for several municipal agencies including human resources, personnel and labor boards, and real property.

"I am excited to be here and privileged to serve the people of the Commonwealth," Yntema said.

Yntema graduated cum laude in 2013 from the University of Michigan Law School and received his bachelor's degree from Harvard University.

Yntema was sworn in on Thursday, July 13, by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro. ***(PR)***



From left, Office of the Attorney General Civil Division chief Christopher Timmons, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, Hessel Yntema, and Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI

LATTE TRAINING ACADEMY Building a Foundation

FREE Small Business Development Workshops

How to Start a Business

Tuesday, July 25th, 2017

8:30am—11:00am

Location: CDA Board Room,
1st Floor, San Jose



Presented by:
Nicole Babauta, CNMI SBDC Director/Business Advisor

This workshop will help individuals learn everything they will need to get started, including an introduction to business plans and the importance of preparing one; exploring the legal forms of business (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability partnership / company) and which one is right for your business needs; local or federal licensing requirements for the business. Participants will be able to obtain vital information and resources to start and own a business. This training will take the mystery out of starting a business and help participants better evaluate their business idea.

Limited Seating.

Register now at: pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com

For more information or to reserve your seats today, contact the CNMI SBDC at 670-664-3018 or visit www.pacificsbdc.com

DISCLAIMER: The Pacific Islands SBDC Network is funded in part through a co-operative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Admin-istration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with enough advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950 Tel: (670)664-3018 or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Ayuda invites public to fair

The Ayuda Network, Inc. is inviting the public to a Community and Partnership Fair on Saturday, July 29, at the Filcom Pavilion/Civic Center basketball court from 7:30am to 4pm. The purpose of the fair is to acknowledge and promote network partners for their 25 years of support and contributions to the Ayuda Network, Inc. and the 15 years of advocacy support and contributions to the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition. For more information, contact the Ayuda Network at 322-7469 or ayudanet@ayuda-cnmi.org or crsp.ayudanet1@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

A walk against diabetes

The Ayuda Network, in coordination with the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, is inviting the community to join ithe Walk on Wednesday, or WOW, as part of a campaign to prevent diabetes. The theme for the run will be "Walk, Roll, and Run, and Step Up to a Healthier Living."

The walk will also serve as a celebration for the 15th anniversary of the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition and the 25th anniversary of the Ayuda Network.

The event will be held at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion on July 19, 2017. Registration will start at 4:30pm. Walkers will take off at 5:30pm.

The first 100 participants to register will get a free T-shirt. There will be free health screenings, fruits, and water for all walk participants.

For additional information, call the Ayuda Network at 322-7469. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Military trainings

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on July 20 from 7am to 11pm

The military will also conduct training at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Guam, Andersen South in Yigo, and the former Adm. Nimitz golf course in Barrigada on July 20 from noon to 11:55pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

These trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

Sumay Mass at NBS

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam commanding officer Capt. Hans Sholley is inviting former residents of Sumay village and their descendants to a Mass at the base on July 20.

The event is coordinated with the Santa Rita Mayor's Office as part of the island's Liberation Day festivities.

The Mass will be held 11am at the Sumay Cemetery, followed by a luncheon hosted by the mayor's office. Former Sumay residents and descendants may contact the Santa Rita Mayor's Office at 565-4337/2514 to arrange access for the Mass.

Sumay village was once known as the "Pearl of the Island" before World War II. Evolving from a small fishing village to the agricultural and commercial hub for ships in the mid-1800s, it became an economically rich village by the 1930s. ***(PR)***

Guam residents to visit Fena Cave

SANTA RITA, Guam—As part of Liberation Day events, a site visit will be held at the Fena Cave located at the Naval Munitions Annex on U.S. Naval Base Guam on July 19.

The visit, coordinated between Naval Base Guam and the Agat Mayor's Office, will precede a memorial held for Fena Cave Massacre victims at Old Agat Cemetery.

After the cave visit, a memorial will be held at the cemetery.

On July 19, 1944 the Fena Cave Massacre occurred, when Japanese soldiers killed more than 30 young men and women from Agat and Sumay with grenades and bayonets in the caves near Fena Lake. During the past several years, the NBG commanding officer has invited the victims' families to visit the cave as part of Liberation Day ceremonies. ***(PR)***

Free kid and teen camps this summer

Church 360 will be hosting a free Kids' Camps on July 17-20, from 9am to noon, at Church 360 for ages 4-11. Kagman Community Church will also be hosting the same Kids' Camps on July 24-27, from 9am to noon.

Church 360 will also be hosting free Teen Sports Clinics on July 17-20, from 2:30pm to 5pm at the Oleai sports complex.

Kagman Community Church will also host the same Teen Sports Clinics on July 24-27, from 2:30pm to 5pm at the Kagman II basketball court and field. The Kagman Basketball Clinic will also be open to high school boys.

Transportation is available for the Kagman events to any students in Kagman if they call ahead. Email flybjrew@yahoo.com or call 256-8171 and ask for Joy to pre-register and reserve a spot or for more information. ***(PR)***

Youth fishing derby on Rota on July 23

The Rota Mayor's Office will be hosting a youth fishing derby at the Teteto Beach on Sunday, July 23, from 9am to 4pm. Interested participants must fill out application forms at the Rota Mayor's Office. Participants must be ages 5 to 8 and 9 to 12. There will be an orientation at the Teteto Pavilion on Sunday, July 23, at 8:30am. Cash prizes will be given to the participant who collects the most number of fish. Prizes are $75 for first place, $50 for second place, and $25 for third place. ***(MVA)***

MyPROS to host July 22 gala

The Marianas Young Professionals will host a White Beach Gala at the Surf Club on July 22. Tickets can be purchased from any Events Committee member. Tickets previously bought are still honored for the new date. For more information, check out MYPros Facebook page at facebook.com/mypros670/. ***(PR)***

Ongoing gambling survey

The Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation Program is conducting a "Gambling Survey" to gather baseline data in order to help determine if a further comprehensive screening tool or assessment is needed in regards to gambling in the CNMI. An online version of the survey can be taken at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FDKXYNH. The last day to complete the online survey is this Saturday, July 15, 2017. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

AMENDED
Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda
Thursday, July 20, 2017
5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 5/17/2017 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:
1. **Conditional Use Application #2017-2409:** American Sinopan, LLC dba Heaven II Hotel is proposing to occupy four existing structures to operate a hotel. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Tract No. 22667-2-R1 in Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2017-2486:** Fortune Pacific Corporation is proposing to operate an Amusement, Outdoor (Para-Gliding). This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 056 C 116 in Marpi. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communication

D. Old Business

E. New Business
1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
for
Seatimes Company Ltd.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Seatimes Company Ltd. is proposing to occupy two existing buildings to operate a Bed and Breakfast. This use is classified as "Bed and Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 128 D 24 in Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: July 20, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, July 19, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.
For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

VOIDED

Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 | Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
July 12, 2017

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) thru its Chairman, hereby informs the general public that the CDA Board of Directors will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. the meeting will be held at the CDA conference room, first floor, CDA Building in Oleai, Saipan. The Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
1. Executive Director's Report
   a) Administrative/Personnel Matters
   b) Loan Matters
   c) Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters
2. Comptroller's Report
3. Legal Counsel's Report

IV. OLD BUSINESS
1. Housing Financing

V. NEW BUSINESS
1. Bank of Guam Investment
2. ADFIAP Conference/Micronesia Challenge
3. CNMI State Bank Bill

VI. Other Matters

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-OVR-177

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 18, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PROVISION OF FIVE (5) CORE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICE A PROJECT UNDER THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMNET OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-SUBMISSION ORIENTATION WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, NAVY HILL, SAIPAN ON **AUGUST 04, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME.** PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE ORIENTATION.

ALL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY MS. ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA, M.S., CRC OVER DIRECTOR BY PHONE AT (670) 322-6537/38 OR THROUGH E-MAIL AT nmidir@ovrgov.net NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 09, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMNET REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA, MS.S. CRC
OVR DIRECTOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MINA names winner of marine debris competition

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, which held a marine debris contest over the weekend among fishermen who participated in the 33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament, has named boat captain Jesse Taitano and the crew of the fishing boat *Jesus Maria* as the winner of the competition.

Taitano and his crew were awarded the prize of $500 in Joeten gift certificates.

Representing the team, Jesseboy Taitano received the prize at the fishing tournament's awards banquet.

The contest required derby participants to find at least one piece of trash, which is man-made, that they found in the ocean and collected while they were fishing. Any floating marine debris, such as plastic, were qualified. All trash collected were turned in to the MINA booth upon docking. In past derbies, the garbage consisted mostly of old nets and other old fishing equipment.

"Congratulations, Team *Jesus Maria* and thank you for doing your part in keeping our ocean clean," MINA said in a statement.

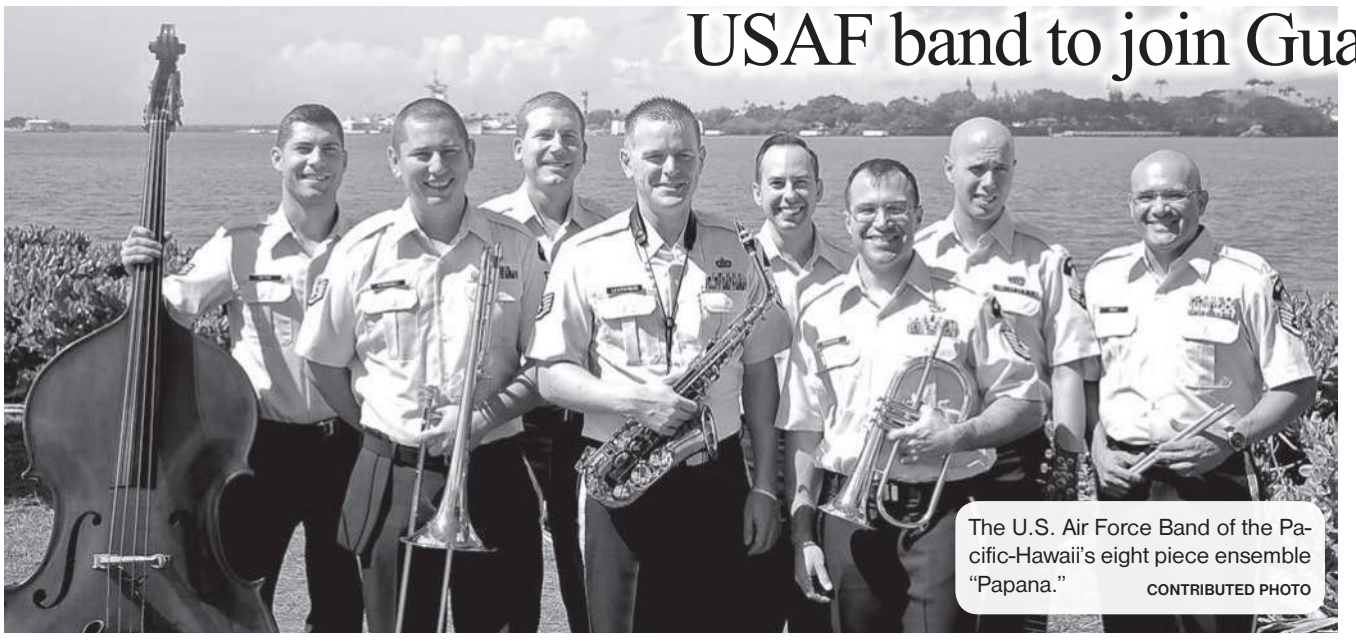
It is MINA's mission to foster conservation through community outreach to enhance and sustain the islands' environment. ***(Saipan Tribune)***



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Boats line up at the dock of the Smiling Cove Marina to turn in their catch and the trash they collected during the 33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament last Saturday.

USAF band to join Guam LibDay celebrations



The U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Hawaii's eight piece ensemble "Papana." CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—The U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Hawaii's eight piece ensemble "Papana" arrived Tuesday and will perform a diverse repertoire of contemporary and classical jazz events throughout the community for this year's Liberation Day celebration in Guam.

The band's official tour in Guam will run from July 19 to July 24. The first performance will be at the Outrigger hotel lobby tomorrow, July 20, at 6pm,. On July 21, the band will perform at the Liberation Day carnival at 8pm during the fireworks.

The first military base performance kicks-off at 6pm, July 22, at the Coral Reef Fitness Center.

The U.S. Naval Base will host a performance on July 23 at the NEX shopping center beginning at noon and will conclude their tour at the U.S. Naval Hospital on Sunday, with two performances at noon and 3pm.

The U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Hawaii is based out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii where they have called home for more than 30 years. The band has three ensembles, "Hana Hou," "Papana," and "Small Kine," bringing forth a wide variety of sounds and styles for concerts and community events throughout the Pacific region.

U.S. Air Force bands promote the global Air Force mission in war and in peace by providing world-class musical products and services to honor airmen, support troop morale and recruiting, and to build and strengthen domestic and international partnerships. ***(PR)***

What is 'supervisory leadership'?

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions will be hosting a two-part seminar on "supervisory leadership" that teaches supervisors and team leaders the skills to lead others in the workplace.

Effective supervisors can make the difference between the success or failure of a company. Training your supervisors allows you to instill your company mission and values in your leaders, who pass them on to the front-line workers. Take advantage of this opportunity to train your new supervisors and sharpen the skills of your experienced ones. It pays to invest in yourself by attending training to enhance your skills and efficiency.

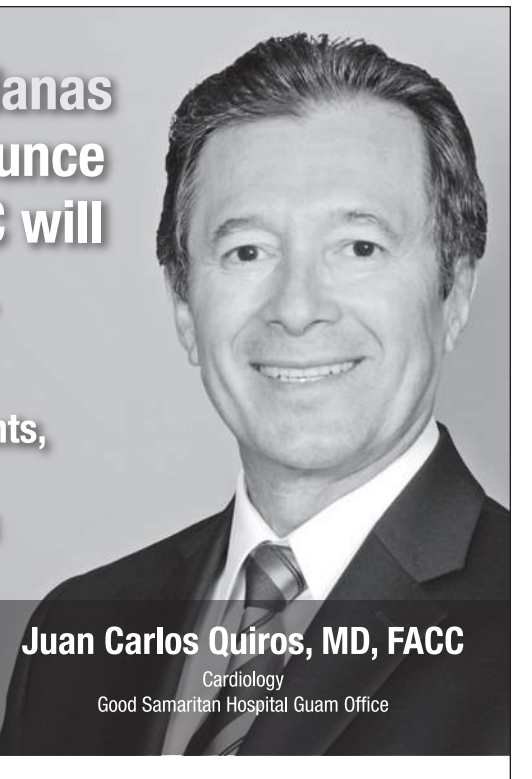
In Part 1 of this course, participants will learn how to communicate effectively, embrace their new role and assert leadership, and identify and manage problems using a step-by-step process.

In Part 2, participants will learn how to amplify strengths in each team member to maximize productivity and success, how to empower and motivate others, and how to manage diversity in the workplace.

The seminar will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room on the third floor of Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315. Part 1 is on Aug. 17, 2017, and Part 2 is on Sept. 21, 2017. Registration fee for each course is $50 per person for Chamber members and $55 per person for non-members. Prepay for both courses and receive a $10 discount, $90 (member) or $100 (non-member). Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email us at coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Good Samaritan Hospital and Marianas Medical Center is pleased to announce that Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC will be on island August 15 - 17, 2017.

For more information, referrals and/or appointments, please contact your physician or Marianas Medical Center at (670) 234-3926/27/28



Meet Dr. Juan Carlos Quiros cardiologist and Medical Director for Good Samaritan Hospital Guam office bringing cardiovascular care excellence to the CNMI.

Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC
Cardiology
Good Samaritan Hospital Guam Office

As a leader in cardiology, he depends on Good Samaritan Hospital to deliver the premier technology and resources he needs.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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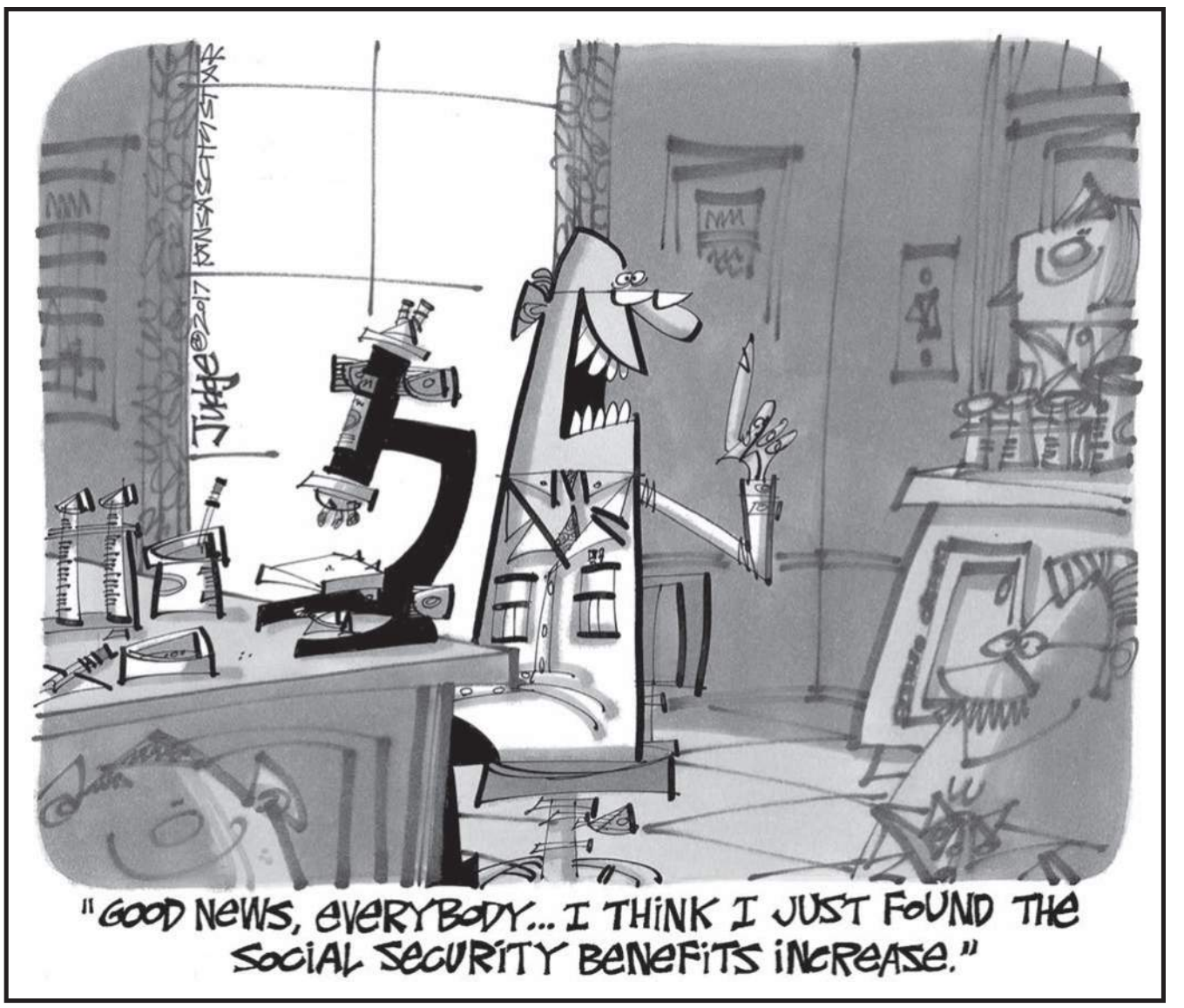
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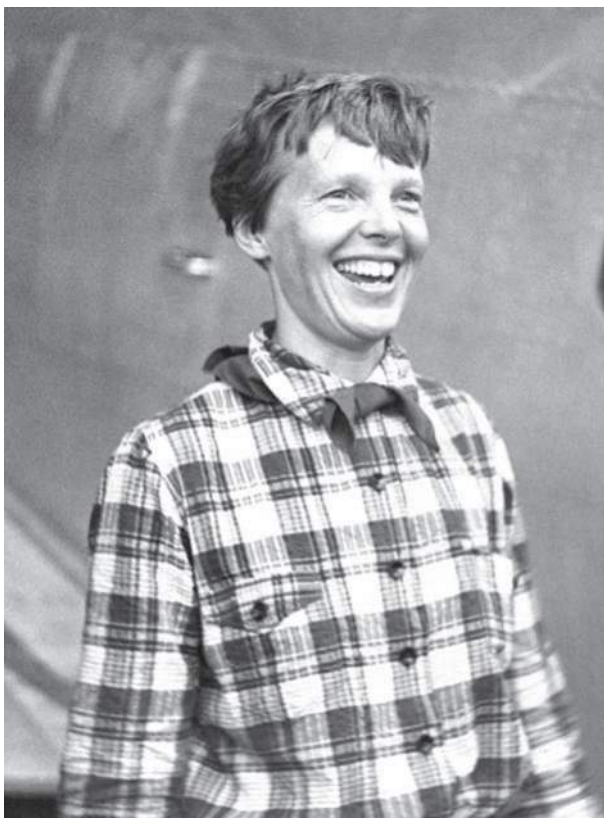
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EDITORIAL

Amelia Earhart legend survives



AP

In this June 6, 1937, file photo, Amelia Earhart, the American airwoman who is flying round the world for fun, arrived at Port Natal, Brazil, and took off on her 2,240-mile flight across the South Atlantic to Dakar, Africa.

By mid-July 1937, the search for Amelia Earhart and her twin engine Lockheed Electra airplane had come up empty.

The heroic American pilot and her navigator, Fred Noonan, were missing for weeks in the central Pacific. They should have landed at tiny Howland Island in early July and then hopscotched home to Oakland, Calif., thus completing the first round-the-world plane voyage via the equator.

Earhart knew the 2,250-mile flight from New Guinea to Howland was the trickiest part of the journey; finding that speck of land using celestial and radio navigation would be a race against diminishing fuel. The Itasca, a U.S. Coast Guard cutter, was stationed near Howland to help her home in on the island, but Earhart and the naval vessel failed to connect. Crew aboard the Itasca, in agony, could hear Earhart, but she couldn't hear the ship. "We must be on you but cannot see you—but gas is running low," she reported in one of her final transmissions. "Have been unable to reach you by radio. We are flying at 1,000 feet."

You've read to this point, and you're in agony, too, right? Or at least captivated by the mystery of what happened 80 years ago this month to Amelia Earhart, icon of flying and

See AMELIA on Next Page

McConnell has few choices at this point

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg View



Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg View columnist. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote A Plain Blog About Politics. *Readers may email him at jbernstein62@bloomberg.net.*

This is what getting jammed looks like.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's new plan is to ask Republicans to suspend reality until after casting their vote. Regardless of what the bill actually says, it means whatever they want it to mean. To state the obvious, this is not exactly a strong position. Conservatives will believe they are being betrayed, while Republicans (and everyone else) who want to preserve Medicaid won't believe the reassurances.

McConnell, whether his reputation as a master legislative technician is deserved or not, is no fool. He simply has only a few choices remaining at this point in the game. Playing pretend is one of the last tools left at his disposal.

The bottom line remains where it's been since January: Very few congressional Republicans want to be responsible for the changes that repeal-and-replace would produce—including, of course, taking health insurance away from millions of Americans. Even fewer want to be responsible for killing the item at the top of the Republican rhetorical agenda since spring 2010. And at the same time, there's a group of very conservative members who want to take advantage of a rare unified government opportunity to roll back major parts of the Great Society.

There's just no way to square that circle.

And House Speaker Paul Ryan, for better or worse, has done an excellent job of boxing McConnell in. Ryan was able to get something through the House by basically using the same logic McConnell is attempting now: Secure the support of various factions by promising that their objections would be dealt with later on in the other chamber. That was sufficient for those who were unhappy with the House bill but didn't want the blame for defeating it. And then Ryan has made it clear (or at least effectively bluffed) that the House will accept intact whatever the Senate will do, making it harder for McConnell to do the same thing—senators believe that anything that they pass will wind up as law, and they'll be liable for the effects.

Republicans have become increasingly desperate over the last few months to find a way to fulfill their campaign pledge to repeal and replace Obamacare. But their streak of mistakes began years earlier. There were many, many off-ramps available since the Affordable Care Act was signed—well, really, since the original bill first hit Congress. Republicans had plenty of chances to either shift to "fixing" the health care system instead of claiming they were able to fully replace the status quo. Or they could have defined "repeal and replace" as something that they really could have accomplished. Or they simply could have declared victory and moved on to something that was more promising for them, such as taxes—in other words, they could have gone with a "pretend and rename" version of repeal and replace.

It's still not clear what the fate of this legislation might be. The surface problem remains the same: It's hard to satisfy the very conservative demands of Rand Paul, Mike Lee, and Ted Cruz without losing the votes of the least conservative Republican senators such as Dean Heller, Lisa Murkowski, and Susan Collins—and vice versa.

But I think the underlying question remains a more basic one: Do Republicans really want to pass a bill? Not just if they're willing to vote for it, but do they really care about getting this done?

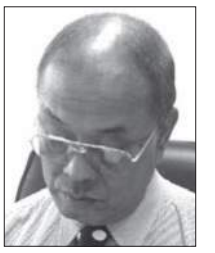
If they do, it's likely that compromises will eventually be found. If they either don't want to pass anything or, more likely, just don't feel all that strongly about it, then they probably won't.

What goes into the answer to that question are several things. Basic political calculations—is it worse to break their promise on repealing Obamacare, and responsibility for managing a law they never supported in the first place—or is it worse to be stuck with responsibility for the replacement? Policy considerations—they may really care about the effects of the status quo compared to the replacement bill in their districts and across the nation. And who knows what other considerations any of the 52 Republicans might have.

It's anyone's guess what that adds up to. But I certainly don't hear very much enthusiasm about the bill from any congressional Republicans so far. That might (might!) be the most important hint about what is about to happen.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tradision Tanu`



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Respetu iya hululu` na finana`guen mañaina-ta ni matutuhun ginen halum guma`. Estague` `nai umeyag i patgon rumespetan maisague`. Ginen este na ginaguat `nai ha ekstende gi otru prohimuña.

Ginen ineyag respetu na ma-establese inafamauleg yan bisinu siha. Adumididi` man-arikohe gi fina` cho`chu` komunida. Mañaunau famaguonta gi preparasion gupot patron i señgsoñg. Motmut respetu gi entalu` todu.

I man-amku` matuñgu` haye siha famaguon bisinu ya mañau man-mamulan gi finapos ha`ane. Hasan guihe na tiempu babarias gi señgsoñg siha.

I sensian kooperasion naturat gi entalu` natibu. Desde ayudun ma-ekstenden guma pat mahatsan fandañgeru antes mangaige i bisinu para u fan man-ayuda. Achog che`chu` peska tat kumu gigao, tekin yan chenchulu mañaunau i membron komunida. Piot ya humalum i sagun atulai yan otru siha guihan. Mana` fan mañage i bisinu siha. Lastima sa` maliñgu este na kustumbreta.

Sensian ayudu gi hechuran inana`e gi entalu familia yan bisinu oppan gi halum tautau-ta. Ni unu sumeha gi bandan ayudu piot para i namase` ni numesessita ausiliu. Mafattu ennau na ayudu ginen korason niha! Metgot na pisun kuttura i respetu, kooperasion, inagofli`e yan ina`ayuda.

Gi rimulinun che`chu` linahyan `nai anog famaguon-ta siha ni manmahayu fitme ni mañainan niha. Todu tumuñgu haf` para umachogue ya man-halum sin ditension yan ayudun niha kanai ya nina`e.

**Tinaitai E`salau:** Huli`e gi programan KUAM the "Gud Life" serimoñas despedidan galaide ginen Guahan. Ilegniha "sakman" lau galaide` i mafatinas. I karera para Saipan dispues ma-esgaihon halum ni Coast Guard sa` estaba chagu` gi lagun Tinian. Ma-usune halum ni tropa.

Kulan kahulu` kalenturan mamatinas galaide`. Mas kalentura `nai duru tinayuyot e`salau na u felis i biahen i kapitan yan tropa. Estaya guaha tinayuyot galaide` gi fina` e`salau ni tinicha ni pale` karisun modetnu.

Sopas! Manu gi estorian Chamorro `nai gaige este na tinayuyot e`salau? Na ti man-mapega kalaberan mañaina-ta gi halum apusientu kumu respetun konsagrada? Anog na man-naufragu i chumochoneg mandage na kuttura! Dispues, hagas tai relihion i man-antigu na Chamorro. Ñgai`an `nai kumilisyanu i natibu?

Nachatsaga i kumahulu` numerun man-ma-abusa na asagua yan famaguon guine gi alacha. Hu akanteha pot para bai`li`e manu `nai gaige hahale`ña i problema.

Gaige lamayot patte gi maneskada, usun amot binenu yan kara` monedan familia pot hokog gi huegun poker. Este na chinatsaga umetablese mafanana`an "broken home" `. I mañaina madiskuida sihani obligasion niha gi famaguon.

Makat este na diskuidu gi patgon yan komunida. Uttimoña man-hanau este siha na famaguon ma-atetuye ti mañgombeni siha na cho`chu` kontodu destrosiun propiadat bisinu. Man-namase` sa` ni unu gaige gi tatten niha diariu.

I para u fan mapresu este siha na famaguon ti u baba kinemprenden niha haf` masusedi sa` ni siha ti matuñgu` haf` bidan niha. Mauleg u fan mahala halum mañainan niha ya siha u ineppi haf` na appenas guaguat (discipline) gi este siha na man-hoben.

Ayu mas man-namase` i ni nana ni tata ni man-mayute gi kaprechun niha. Estague` na mañaina mauleg u fan mabatsala halum gi kotte ya u fan mahusga kau pinilakes galagitu famaguon niha. Na ti man-tautau famaguon miyu?

Setbiente: Yangin mañiñila` guafen sinsiyu na diniseha mañetbe publiku pues guiya este tutuhun pinesan appottunidat yan kampu gi pinetsigen este na offisiu.

Debi i manguiguife u mehnalum yan tomtum gi inebaluan haf` sustansiau na asuntun linahyan siha. Yangin taigue este giya hagu pues kase maulegña un` upus i asuntu ke unna` bulachun maisa hau sin presisu.

Taya` planuhu fuma`ichanak haye na kandidatu ni huli`e listu para puestun publiku soluke aksioña dispues ni mampus achagu` yan interes i tautau siha. Siempre un` huñgug i idu kumuentos!

Lemai: Malofan-yu` entalu` Lali Fo` yan chalan As Lito` `nai huli`e manadan troñkun lemai ni esta pa`gu manatachu. Desde pinatgohu ayu siha na troñku!

Kase in` hassu na guiya este na troñku satbasion megai na familia guine gi hinanau i Navy gi 1961. Adahe na lemai tinife` mame gi troñku bisinu. Kulan mohon troñkun mame hombre guaha `nai in` lalade i dueñu.

Bokan popble ayu na `agun tanu` piot `nai hokog pugas. Entre ta saibog, tunu sino sotne. `An mapega gi lamasan sena cha`mu mamatman. Chule` pattemu sa` taya` otru putahe para umaplanta dispues de ayu.

I lemai usun kada tanu` gi halum todu iya Pasifiku. Guaha `nos kuantos klase desde regulat esta i mahlus. Kada mañogcha` kase 150-200 na lemai ha lalagnos. Paire matunu dispues mafoyon ya matotche yan fina` mantika pat mantikiya.

Bai` fan espiha dispues para saiboghu pot kulan hu tatañga lumunu` ta`lu ayu na `agun i muna` fan libre ham antes.

■■■

I minaipen i tanu` dididi` figan. Para i man-malañgu yan man-amku` suhaye este na figan pot hinemlu` miyu. Un` siente ha` este gi taftaf oga`an gigon un` baba i petta. Puede u la fresku gi karera mona.

AMELIA

From Page 10

early-20th-century female derring-do. It is a puzzle Earhart obsessives have never stopped trying to solve. Which brings us to two new clues, involving a photograph and four forensic dogs—Marcy, Piper, Kayle and Berkeley.

The aging black-and-white photograph, discovered in the National Archives, shows a busy dock scene at Jaluit Atoll in the Japanese-controlled Marshall Islands. There's a slim person with short wavy hair sitting on the dock, facing away from the camera, who looks like Earhart. Nearby is a man who resembles Noonan. The blurred photo, featured on a new History Channel documentary, lent credence to one of many theories: that Earhart and Noonan were captured by the Japanese. Alas, days after the photo was publicized, a Japanesse blogger determined the picture had appeared in a Japanese book published two years before Earhart's fateful flight. So much for that hypothesis.

Among other Earhart theories, one group believes her plane bypassed Howland and landed 350 nautical miles to the south on Gardner Island, now Nikumaroro in Kiribati. The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery just made another trip to the island, where numerous clues could prove Earhart and Noonan met their fate, lost and marooned, on Gardner. Last month, the group, which includes the National Geographic Society, arrived at Nikumaroro with four forensic dogs capable of detecting the scent of human bones. Why? A British doctor in 1940 reported finding such bones on the island. Other intriguing detritus turned up, including a U.S.-made jackknife, a zipper pull and a small jar that some speculate contained freckle cream of the type Earhart used. Ooh, feeling chills?

National Geographic reports that the pups detected a spot that may hold traces of human remains. A German laboratory will test soil from the spot for DNA that—if you believe in long shots—could put Earhart or Noonan at the site.

Or this could be another clue that leads nowhere. Given that Earhart and Noonan were low on fuel, the most likely location of the Electra is somewhere at the bottom of the Pacific.

Yet all these decades later, the story of Amelia Earhart endures. She was a record-setting pilot, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, whose spirit of adventure ultimately led to her doom. Her body and plane are still missing, but because Earhart's legend survives, she was never truly lost.

(c) 2017 *Chicago Tribune*

Confessions of a bad father



By REG HENRY
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Reg Henry is a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette *columnist. Readers may email him at rhenry@post-gazette.com*

Moved more by perspiration than inspiration after a nasty tweet storm, I sat down recently and wrote an open letter of apology to my grown-up children. Other remorseful parents may wish to follow my example.

Dear Kids,

It is with a heavy heart that I must admit that everything I taught you when you were younger has turned out to be a crock. Well, not everything. The thing about when the bartender runs away, you run away, is still good advice.

It is also true that you don't ever have to fear being embarrassed for the simple reason you can't die of embarrassment. If that were not so, I would have died years ago.

But the rest of my advice was a bunch of nonsense, as it turned out. My excuse is that I passed my standards on in good faith. My problem is that I am what is quaintly called "old-fashioned," which may not come as a shock to you kids. I believe in certain values, which I thought were eternal. Current evidence does not support this conclusion.

I thought if you told the truth, acted in a kindly way to others, did not blow your own horn in fits of egotism, refused to be mean, never played the bully or called people names and generally tried not to resemble the rear quarters of a horse, you would have the respect of all. Apparently, it is the reverse. Sorry.

I thought that by teaching you these old-fashioned values handed down by my father and his father before him and a long line of stern men with impressive whiskers, and on your mother's side by a formidable array of proper women with accusatory stares so incendiary that they could ignite the dining room curtains if they missed the guilty party in their sights, there would be no stopping your success. Not so. Very sorry.

I believed that with a sturdy foundation of character, either one of you could rise to be president. I now recognize this theory as a delusion. Many regrets.

Take, for example, the matter of telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, Forget it. Nobody bothers with that anymore. Sorry I said anything about it.

If George Washington were a little boy today and he cut down the cherry tree, he would say: "Father, I cannot tell a lie; it was Obama and the mainstream media that cut down the tree." And George's father would say, "That sounds right. Good boy, George."

Clearly, to be swooned over by a considerable segment of the American population, a leader must be a master of misinformation who gushes a Niagara Falls of untruths, half-truths, lies, whoppers, obfuscations, fake news and alternative facts in tweets or whole speeches.

No, kids, I did not prepare you for this brazen world. Silly me, I just thought that if you took responsibility for your own actions instead of blaming other people for setbacks, the cornerstone of character, people would recognize your goodness and greatness.

That's how much I knew. Mea culpa, mea culpa, forgive your father for I have sinned, to the extent that sin is still a viable concept.

Go around the table and as each gives you a display of fawning and obsequious buttering-up, you can preen, smile and glow with self-satisfaction and ad lib a few fibs. This is bound to inspire all who hear of it.

And forget all the other alleged truths I formerly held to be self-evident as markers of decency, you know, being humble in victory, never betraying the loyalty of your colleagues, never discriminating against minorities or picking on scapegoats and always treating women with respect. What a load of unhelpful advice, as I now plainly see.

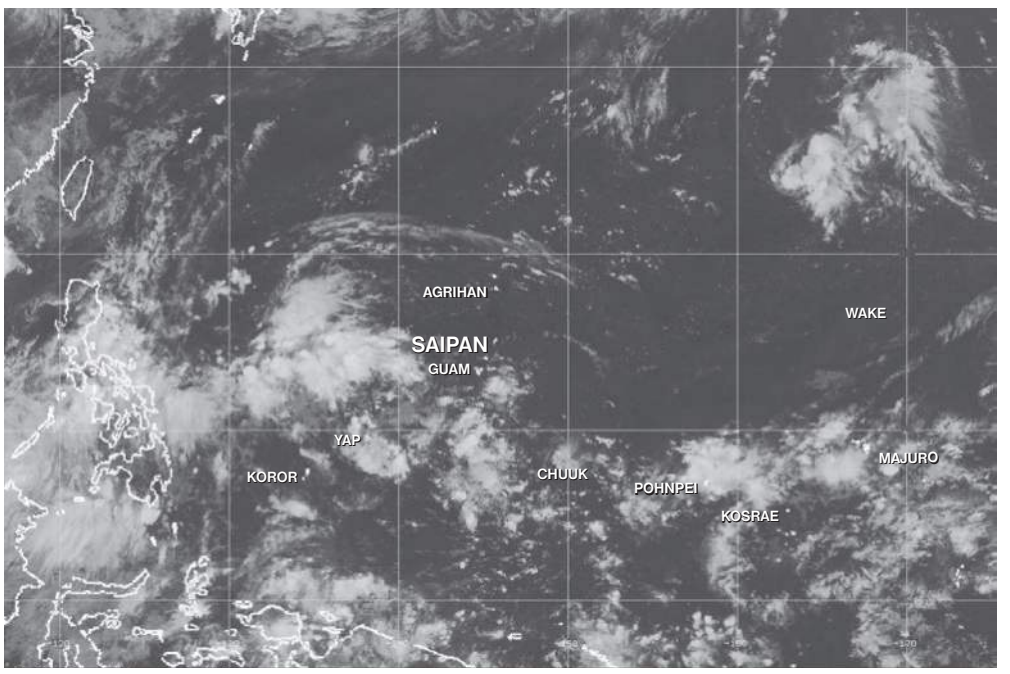
Yours in contriteness, Dad. xoxo

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 1:04 PM, TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle trade winds and combined seas of 3 to 4 feet are present across the Marianas waters. Satellite shows scattered showers 100 or more miles southeast of Guam, but not moving very much. The 12Z sounding had 2.4 inches of precipitable water, but not much to show for it. Skies have cleared out quite a bit across the Marianas at least for now.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	95° / 77°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 63°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	83° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 34°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Paris	Thunderstorms	88° / 66°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 66°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	92° / 73°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 53°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	90° / 77°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	95° / 77°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:47 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.98
10:07 AM	LOW TIDE	0.01
4:49 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.58
9:49 PM	LOW TIDE	1.00

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:34 AM	2:32 PM	-
Thursday	2:26 AM	3:34 PM	-
Friday	3:23 AM	4:36 PM	-
Saturday	4:23 AM	5:39 PM	-
Sunday	5:26 AM	6:38 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 16, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Social Security projects biggest payment increase in years

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP

In this May 5, 2014, file photo, the Capitol building is seen through the columns on the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Good news for seniors: Millions of Americans who rely on Social Security are projected to receive their biggest payment increase in years this January.

Bad news for seniors: It's just a 2.2 percent increase, or about $28 a month for the average recipient.

The trustees who oversee Social Security and Medicare released their 2018 projections Thursday, along with their annual warning about the long-term financial problems of the federal government's two bedrock retirement programs.

Social Security recipients have gone years with tiny increases in benefits because inflation has been low or non-existent. This year they received an increase of 0.3 percent, after getting nothing last year. The last time they got a bigger increase was in 2012, when the hike was 3.6 percent.

In recent years, many Social Security recipients have seen their cost-of-living adjustments erased by higher premiums for Medicare Part B. The trustees say that shouldn't be a problem next year. They project that Medicare Part B premiums will remain unchanged—$134 a month for most, though retirees with higher incomes pay more.

Both Social Security's cost-of-living adjustment and the Medicare Part B premium are to be announced in the fall.

More than 61 million retirees, disabled workers, spouses and surviving children receive Social Security benefits. The average monthly payment is $1,253. Medicare provides health insurance to about 58 million people, most of whom are at least 65 years old.

Unless Congress acts, the trust funds that support Social Security are estimated to run dry in 2034, the same year as last year's projection. Medicare's trust fund for inpatient care is projected to be depleted in 2029, a year later than last year's forecast.

If Congress allows either fund to be depleted, millions of Americans living on fixed incomes would face steep cuts in benefits.

Neither Social Security nor Medicare faces an immediate crisis—they both currently have surpluses. But the trustees warn that the longer Congress waits to address the programs' problems, the harder it will be to sustain Social Security and Medicare without steep cuts in benefits, big tax increases or both.

For example, in 2034, Social Security is projected to have a $546 billion shortfall, which would grow to more than $3 trillion in the first five years.

"Congress must act to ensure the long-term fiscal viability and sustainability and survival of Medicare and Social Security," said Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price. "There are a great many ways that the situation can be addressed. The bottom line is that it must be addressed."

A big reason why Congress doesn't shore up Social Security and Medicare is that Democrats and Republicans don't agree on the urgency of the problem. Many Democrats and liberals focus on the fact that both programs are funded for years to come.

"Today's reports reveal the claim Medicare is bankrupt as simply a political excuse to cut seniors' benefits, and Social Security's near term outlook is stable," said Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee.

Republicans, meanwhile, note that both programs face steep shortfalls as soon as their trust funds run out of money.

"With an aging population, our nation's most critical retirement programs—Medicare and Social Security—are feeling an increased financial squeeze that puts their future viability at serious risk," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Finance Committee.

The programs' long-term financial problems are in part because the U.S. is growing older.

In 1960, there were 5.1 workers for each person getting Social Security benefits. Today, there are about 2.8 workers for each beneficiary.

In addition to Price, the trustees who oversee Social Security and Medicare are Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta and acting Social Security Commissioner Nancy Berryhill.

2 more GOP senators oppose health bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The latest GOP effort to repeal and replace "Obamacare" was fatally wounded in the Senate Monday night when two more Republican senators announced their opposition to the legislation strongly backed by President Donald Trump.

The announcements from Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Jerry Moran of Kansas left the Republican Party's long-promised efforts to get rid of President Barack Obama's health care legislation reeling. Next steps, if any, were not immediately clear.

Lee and Moran both said they could not support Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's legislation in its current form. They joined GOP Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Rand Paul of Kentucky, both of whom announced their opposition right after McConnell released the bill last Thursday.

McConnell is now at least two votes short in the closely divided Senate and may have to go back to the drawing board or even begin to negotiate with Democrats, a prospect he's threatened but resisted so far. Or he could abandon the health care effort, which has proven more difficult than many Republicans envisioned after campaigning on the issue for years, and move on to tax legislation, a bigger Trump priority to begin with.

McConnell's bill "fails to repeal the Affordable Care Act or address healthcare's rising costs. For the same reasons I could not support the previous version of this bill, I cannot support this one," said Moran.

Lee said, "In addition to not repealing all of the Obamacare taxes, it doesn't go far enough in lowering premiums for middle class families; nor does it create enough free space from the most costly Obamacare regulations."

It was the second straight failure for McConnell, who had to cancel a vote on an earlier version of the bill last month when defeat became inevitable.

Trump had kept his distance from the Senate process, but Monday night's development was a major blow for him, too, as the president failed to rally support for what has been the GOP's trademark issue for seven years—ever since Obama and the Democrats passed the Affordable Care Act. Republicans won the White House and full control of Congress in large part on the basis of their promises to repeal and replace "Obamacare," but have struggled to overcome their deep internal divisions and deliver.

The Senate bill, like an earlier version that barely passed the House, eliminated mandates and taxes under Obamacare, and unraveled an expansion of the Medicaid health care program for the poor and disabled. But for conservatives like Lee and Paul it didn't go far enough in delivering on Republican Party promises to undo Obama's law, while moderates like Collins viewed the bill as too extreme in yanking insurance coverage from millions.

McConnell's latest version aimed to satisfy both camps, by incorporating language by Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas allowing insurers to sell skimpy plans alongside more robust ones, and by adding billions to treat opioid addiction and to defray consumer costs.

Qatar: Alleged UAE hacking 'unfortunate,' violation of law

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Qatar, the tiny Gulf state being isolated by its neighbors, said Monday the reported involvement of the United Arab Emirates in hacking its government news site in May is "unfortunate" and a breach of agreements among the Gulf countries.

The Washington Post, quoting unnamed U.S. intelligence officials, reported Sunday that the UAE orchestrated the hacking and planted a false story that was used as a pretext for the crisis between Qatar and four Arab countries.

The report said senior members of the Emirati government discussed the hacking plan a day before a story appeared on the official Qatar News Agency quoting Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, allegedly praising Iran and saying Qatar has a good relationship with Israel.

The UAE has denied involvement, calling the Post report "false" and insisting that the UAE "had no role whatsoever" in the alleged hacking.

The UAE along with Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Bahrain cut diplomatic ties and severed air, land and sea links with Qatar in early June over allegations that it supports extremist ideology—a charge Qatar denied. The crisis has dragged on for more than a month with neither side showing signs of backing down.

Qatar maintained from the beginning that the quotes attributed to its ruler were the result of a hacking. It said in a statement Monday that the Post report "unequivocally proves that this hacking crime took place."

Sheikh Saif bin Ahmad Al Thani, the head of Qatar's government communications office, said "it is especially unfortunate that this shameful act of cyber terrorism is being attributed to a fellow member of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

"This criminal act represents a clear violation and breach of international law and of the bilateral and collective agreements signed between the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as collective agreements with the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and the United Nations," he said.

The GCC is a six-member bloc that includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Kuwait has been serving as a mediator in trying to resolve the current Gulf crisis.

Sheikh Saif said a Qatari government investigation into the hacking is ongoing and that prosecutors will "take all necessary legal measures to bring to justice the perpetrators and instigators of this crime."

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Nation

Flash flood kills 9 relatives in AZ



AP

Members of the Tonto Rim Search and Rescue Team comb the muddy East Verde River near the entrance to the First Crossing recreation area during the search and rescue operation for a victim in a flash flood Monday, July 17, 2017, in Payson, Ariz.

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST, Ariz. (AP)—The flash flood that killed nine people in an Arizona river canyon began its deadly descent as an impressive but avoidable surge of churning water, black with cinders from a recent wildfire and choked with tumbling tree trunks and limbs.

By the time it reached a rocky swimming hole several miles downstream, it was a roaring torrent 6 feet (1.8 meters) high, and an extended family celebrating a birthday while seeking refuge from the summer heat had no warning—and no chance to escape.

The bodies were found up to 2 miles (3 kilometers) away. Five other people were rescued, some of them clinging desperately to trees, and were treated for hypothermia and released.

As rescuers searched Monday for a 27-year-old man still missing about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northeast of Phoenix, authorities identified the victims, who ranged in age from 2 to 60.

Among them were three generations of a family. Five of the dead were children.

The victims had been lounging Saturday in the swimming hole, where rocks create pools and a series of small waterfalls. There the river narrows, squeezing the flow of water and increasing its deadly force.

The river roared to life after a thunderstorm had dumped up to 1.5 inches (3.8 centimeters) of rain in an hour, prompting a flash-flood warning from the National Weather Service.

Though the service sent out a flash-flood warning over cellphone networks, service in the remote area is patchy at best. Unless they had a weather radio, the swimmers would have been unaware.

"They had no warning. They heard a roar, and it was on top of them," said Fire Chief Ron Sattelmaier of the Water Wheel Fire and Medical District.

Carrie Templin, a spokesman for the Tonto National Forest, said people headed to the forest should check weather alerts ahead of time to determine whether it's safe. It is hard to predict where rain will fall in the desert Southwest, and people should know that heavy downpours can cause flash flooding, Templin said.

One hiker who was stranded by the flood said she can't get the sound of the rushing water out of her head.

Nancy Coto, 17, said she was stuck for four hours on a slab of rock with her boyfriend and his family before they were able to walk out.

"We're all just saying that we got blessed, but I don't like to use that word because other families weren't blessed," Coto said. "Children died."

About 40 volunteer workers and four search dogs looked for the missing man, whom authorities identified as Hector Garnica.

The search was suspended late Monday afternoon by an approaching thunderstorm, but was scheduled to resume at dawn Tuesday weather-permitting.

Detective David Hornung of the Gila County Sheriff's Office said more dogs and crews from around the state would be joining the search.

There still is hope Garnica would be found alive, he said. "I've seen miracles happen before," Hornung said.

Garnica had come to celebrate his wife's birthday with their three children and other family. All were among those killed.

Authorities and a family member identified the dead as 2-year-old Erica Raya-Garcia; Emily Garnica, 3; Mia Garnica, 5; Danial Garnica, 7; and Jonathan Leon, 13. Also killed were Javier Raya-Garcia, 19; Celia Garcia Castaneda, 60; Maribel Raya-Garcia, 24; and 26-year-old Maria Raya-Garcia, Hector Garnica's wife.

The group went up the mountain early Saturday, said Tom Price, the general manager at The Horny Toad, a restaurant where Hector Garnica worked.

Garnica's parents were eating at the restaurant in a Phoenix suburb Saturday night when they got a call that something had happened, Price said.

Jury: Railroad to pay $3.9M for train death of film worker

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—A railroad owner must pay $3.9 million to the family of a movie worker killed on a Georgia railroad trestle in 2014, a jury decided Monday in civil verdict that found the company shared in the blame for the deadly freight train collision even though the film crew was trespassing.

The parents of Sarah Jones sued CSX Transportation in Chatham County State Court, saying the railroad shared blame for their daughter's death. The 27-year-old camera assistant died in the crash Feb. 20, 2014, during the first day of shooting "Midnight Rider," an ill-fated movie about Gregg Allman of the Allman Brothers Band.

"This trial disclosed a number of exceptionally poor judgments and ignored opportunities by CSX Transportation to prevent this tragedy," Jones' parents, Richard and Elizabeth Jones of Columbia, South Carolina, said in a written statement.

CSX plans to appeal the jury's decision, said Rob Doolittle, a spokesman for the Jacksonville, Florida-based company.

"CSX is deeply sympathetic to the terrible loss suffered by the family of Ms. Sarah Jones, but respectfully disagrees with the conclusions reached by the jury today," Doolittle said.

The film's director, Randall Miller, served a year in jail after pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter and criminal trespassing charges. Jones' parents said CSX also failed to take precautions that could have averted the crash on a trestle spanning the Altamaha River near Jesup in southeast Georgia.

Jones' family had also sued Miller, his fellow production managers and several other defendants. All of them except for CSX settled or otherwise resolved their cases out of court. The jury Monday found $11.2 million to be the total value of Jones' life as well as her pain and suffering. Jurors decided CSX—the only defendant on trial—bore 35 percent of the responsibility for Jones' death, making the railroad's share $3.9 million.

The jury in Savannah heard testimony during the civil trial that two CSX trains rolled through while the movie crew stood on both sides of the tracks within an hour before the crash, but the operators of those trains never called dispatchers to alert them. Jurors also were shown a CSX policy that train operators are expected to immediately report trespassers on its tracks and rights of way.

Jeffrey Harris, the Jones family's attorney, also noted that the train's brakes weren't applied until after the locomotive struck a hospital bed the filmmakers had placed across the tracks. Actor William Hurt, hired to play Allman, had been lying in the bed before the train came upon the crew at 53 mph (85 kph). Hurt escaped unharmed.

Six crew members were injured by flying shrapnel from the bed. Jones was run over.

Hurt appeared in Savannah and sat outside the courtroom during the trial's first day last week. But the actor was never called to testify in the case.

CSX attorneys blamed the crash entirely on the filmmakers. CSX officials had twice sent production managers emails denying them permission to shoot on the bridge. Three of Jones' co-workers testified that production managers never told the rest of the crew members, who went onto the railroad trestle unaware they were trespassing.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man who pushed stranger in path of train acquitted of murder

NEW YORK (AP)—A man accused of killing a stranger by shoving him onto subway tracks, where his imminent death by an oncoming train was captured in a photograph splashed across a newspaper front page, was acquitted Monday of murder and other charges. Naeem Davis, 34, had said he was defending himself when he pushed Ki-Suck Han off a train platform near Times Square in December 2012. He said the 58-year-old was the drunken instigator of the deadly altercation. In court papers, Davis said that after the two accidentally bumped into each other, Han followed him down the platform, berated him with obscenities, grabbed his shoulder and hurled death threats. Davis claimed that after the accidental bump, Han began yelling, "I'll kill you!" He also said Han was staggering and slurring his words. "I don't know you, you don't know me!" Davis said he responded before trying to walk away. A video made by a bystander showed Davis telling Han to leave him alone. Davis said that after Han tried to grab him, he pushed him away and described Han falling "head first onto the tracks and rolling like a bowling ball," according to court papers.

3 men indicted in New York massacre by violent street gang

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP)—Three alleged members of the MS-13 street gang have been charged in the murders of four young men found hacked to death in a New York park in April, according to an indictment that was quietly unsealed Monday. The three suspects were arraigned Thursday in U.S. District Court on Long Island, according to the attorney for one of the men. Their next court appearance is likely in September. The indictment identified the defendants in the Long Island case as Alexis Hernandez, Santis Leonel Ortiz-Flores and Omar Antonio Villata. Attorneys for Ortiz-Flores and Hernandez declined to comment; the name of Villata's attorney was not immediately available. All three suspects identified in the indictment are in custody. The name of a fourth suspect was blacked out in court papers; it was not immediately clear if that person has been arrested.

Asia

Japan: Time to raise pressure on N. Korea

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Japan called Monday for increased pressure on North Korea, saying this is not a time for dialogue.

Government spokesman Norio Maruyama said North Korea reached "a new level" with its latest launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile as Americans celebrated Independence Day on July 4.

The test marked a significant step toward the goal of North Korea's young leader Kim Jong Un to develop a missile with a nuclear warhead capable of reaching the United States. The ICBM reportedly landed in Japan's exclusive economic zone in the Sea of Japan, where previous North Korean ballistic missile launches have also landed.

Despite condemning the ICBM test, South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Monday offered talks with North Korea, indicating for the first time since his inauguration in May that he wants to use dialogue to defuse the international standoff over the North's nuclear and missile programs.

Maruyama said the Japanese government is "aware of the announcement," but made clear that immediate talks aren't the approach it supports.

"This is not a time for dialogue, it's a time for pressure," he said.

Maruyama explained that raising pressure now is essential "in order to be able to conduct a serious dialogue" with North Korea in the future.

"Dialogue for the sake of dialogue is meaningless," he stressed.

He reminded Seoul of the joint statement issued by Moon, U.S. President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe after a meeting on the fringes of the G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, on July 6 on a "common understanding" on how to deal with North Korea

The joint statement commits the three leaders to work together to counter the threat from North Korea and "to apply maximum pressure" on Pyongyang "to change its path, refrain from provocative and threatening actions, and take steps necessary to return to serious denuclearization dialogue."

The three leaders also agreed to press for early adoption of a new U.N. sanctions resolution to demonstrate to North Korea that "there are serious consequences for its destabilizing, provocative and escalatory actions."

In response to the ICBM test, the United States has circulated a resolution with proposed new sanctions to the other permanent veto-wielding Security Council members—China, Russia, Britain and France—U.N. diplomats said last week. No details have been released. But U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley told the council earlier this month that if it is united, the international community can cut off major sources of hard currency to North Korea, restrict oil to its military and weapons programs, increase air and maritime restrictions, and hold senior officials accountable.

When pressed about possible restrictions on oil sales, Maruyama said, "we are considering" tougher U.N. sanctions. But he also stressed that, "we need to see what sanctions are most successful."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Duterte asks Congress to extend martial law

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte asked Congress on Tuesday to extend martial law in the southern third of the country until the end of the year, saying the rebellion there will not be quelled by July 22, the end of his 60-day martial law proclamation. Duterte declared martial law on May 23 following a bloody siege of the southern city of Marawi by Islamic State group-aligned militants, the most serious security crisis he has faced since assuming power in June last year. In a letter to the Senate and the House of Representatives read by his spokesman Ernesto Abella on Tuesday, Duterte said that after consulting security officials, he has concluded that the rebellion in the south will not be quelled completely by July 22. He asked Congress to extend martial law until Dec. 31.

New Thai king gets greater control over vast royal fortune

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's new king, who succeeded his late father last year, has tightened control over what is reputed to be the world's richest royal fortune, estimated to be worth more than $30 billion. A law that became effective Monday places the Crown Property Bureau, essentially a holding company for the royal palace's assets, under King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun's direct control. The bureau's assets represent the lion's share of the royal family's wealth, which Forbes magazine in 2011 estimated at more than $30 billion, much of it in real estate. Previously the bureau was technically under the government's control, with the finance minister in the position of board chairman.

Indonesia's Parliament speaker named corruption suspect

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's anti-graft agency has named the speaker of Parliament a suspect in a corruption scandal in which officials allegedly pocketed more than $170 million in government money. The chief of the Corruption Eradication Commission, Agus Rahardjo, said on Monday there is sufficient evidence to name Speaker Setya Novanto a suspect in the case. Anti-corruption police allege that a network of about 80 people, mostly legislators, and several companies used the introduction of a $440 million electronic identity card system in 2011 and 2012 to steal more than a third of the allotted funds. Novanto, of the Golkar Party, is the fifth suspect announced in the case, which could turn into a test of President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's willingness to take a hard line against corruption since many of the suspects are from parties in the ruling coalition, including Golkar.

Second Australian senator quits because of dual citizenship

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A second Australian senator in less than a week has announced she's quitting Parliament after discovering she's a dual national and had therefore never really been elected. Larissa Waters, co-deputy leader of the minor Greens party, said Tuesday that she's quitting after six years as a senator after the Canadian High Commission in Canberra told her that she's Canadian. On Friday, the Greens' other co-deputy, Scott Ludlam, revealed that he was a citizen of New Zealand as well as Australia, which made him ineligible for the Senate job he's held since July 2008. Australia's constitution states a "citizen of a foreign power" is not eligible to be elected to Parliament. Greens Leader Richard Di Natale says the party will tighten procedures to prevent ineligible candidates from running in future elections.

World

Venezuela opposition calls strike, US threatens 'actions'

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's opposition called Monday for a 24-hour nationwide strike to pressure President Nicolas Maduro to drop plans to rewrite the constitution while the United States threatened "strong and swift economic actions" against his socialist administration if it ignores the will of voters in a referendum.



National Assembly first Vice President Freddy Guevara speaks to the press accompanied by fellow lawmakers in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, July 17, 2017.

President Donald Trump joined other world leaders in urging Maduro to heed Sunday's symbolic plebiscite in which millions of voters rejected the plan to remake Venezuela's political system, which the opposition calls a power grab by the ruling party as it struggles with shortages, inflation and more than 100 days of anti-government protests.

The vote came two weeks before Venezuela's government will hold an election to select a constituent assembly charged with rewriting the constitution. Canada, Mexico, Brazil and the European Union have also come out against the effort.

"The United States will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles," Trump said in a statement. "If the Maduro regime imposes its Constituent Assembly on July 30, the United States will take strong and swift economic actions."

The U.S. president lauded voters in Sunday's referendum, saying "their strong and courageous actions continue to be ignored by a bad leader who dreams of becoming a dictator."

Despite the global and domestic calls for him to cancel the constituent assembly, Maduro vowed to press ahead with it.

"I won't be intimidated," Venezuela's president said in a speech at the presidential palace. Maduro's allies have called on the assembly to impose executive branch authority over the few remaining institutions outside the control of the ruling party.

On Monday, opposition leaders laid out their plans about how they will resist Maduro in the wake of the referendum.

They said the opposition-controlled National Assembly would name new members to the government-dominated Supreme Court, setting up a showdown with Maduro. Opposition parties also said they plan to sign a declaration calling for the formation of an alternative "government of national unity," a step toward total rejection of government authority.

"Overall the package is pretty radical, especially the idea of a parallel government," said David Smilde, a Tulane University expert on Venezuela. "I think it could lead to real chaos."

He noted, however, that the opposition moves were to be implemented in phases over the next week, giving both sides the opportunity to negotiate possible concessions.

After some procedural moves in the National Assembly on Tuesday, the opposition said it would launch a plan it called "zero hour" on Wednesday that includes an agreement to form an alternate government and create 2,000 local committees that would function as street-level support for the opposition.

Iran says it has received 'contradictory signals' from Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—Iran's foreign minister said the government has received "contradictory signals" from the Trump administration and doesn't know how to interpret them, but he held open the possibility of talks and improved relations with the United States.

In a wide-ranging session at the Council on Foreign Relations, Mohammad Javad Zarif said he hasn't communicated with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. But he said "it doesn't mean that there can't be (communication), because the possibilities for engagement with regard to the nuclear deal has always been open."

He also criticized Saudi Arabia, a U.S. ally and rival in the Mideast, saying Arab states primarily "have been incapable" of addressing the basic needs of their people which has given rise to anger, resentment and incitement.

But Zarif said Iran and Saudi Arabia can and should work together to end the conflicts in Syria and Yemen, where they support opposing sides. "We don't need to fight to exclude each other from the scene in the Middle East," he said, "because in the end neither will be able to exclude the other." He added that "extremist forces are as much a threat against us, but even more against them."

Zarif is in the United States to speak Tuesday at a high-level meeting assessing progress toward meeting U.N. goals for 2030 to combat poverty, achieve gender equality, promote economic development and good governance, and preserve the environment.

He answered questions at the council ahead of a Monday midnight deadline for the State Department to certify whether Iran is still complying with the 2015 nuclear deal, which it must do every three months. Last week, three U.S. officials said the Trump administration is expected to tell Congress that Tehran is complying with an elaborate set of terms designed to limit its nuclear program.

Zarif said the International Atomic Energy Agency, "which is hardly a sympathizer for Iran," has verified its compliance with the agreement.

Focus

HEALTH PLAN hinges on the young, but they're a tough sell

WASHINGTON (AP)—Julian Senn-Raemont isn't convinced he needs to buy health insurance when he loses coverage under his dad's plan in a couple of years—no matter what happens in the policy debate in Washington, or how cheap the plans are.

The 24-year-old musician hasn't known a world without a health care safety net. But he hates being forced by law to get coverage, and doesn't think he needs it.

"I'm playing the odds," said Senn-Raemont, who lives in Woodstock, Illinois. He will go without insurance, he said, until he starts a family or gets a job with benefits. "I feel comfortable I could get care if I needed it."

Senn-Raemont's outlook could pose a major problem for Republicans who await a delayed vote on a replacement for the Affordable Care Act. Insurers need young and healthy enrollees like him to buy insurance because they keep premiums down for everyone. The current law attempts to do that by mandating that everyone get coverage. The Republican plan replaces that mandate with penalties for those who let coverage lapse, and aims to entice young adults by allowing insurance companies to sell bare-bones coverage that could be cheaper.

But cheap isn't free, which turns off people like Senn-Raemont. And other young adults worry that opening the door to these bare-bones plans will make the more comprehensive coverage they know now too expensive or even unavailable.

In Houston, 29-year-old Jimmieka Mills pays $15 a month for a government-subsidized "Obamacare" health plan. She fears Congress will weaken the health law's guarantees of free preventive care, so she made an appointment to get a birth control implant that will last for years.

"I'm scared," Mills said. "I'm like a bear getting ready for hibernation. That's how I feel."

Language is still being nailed down in the retooled bill, but it includes a proposal from conservative Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, which would let insurers sell plans with minimal coverage, as long as they also sell policies that meet strict coverage requirements set by the Obama-era health care law. Insurers could deny the slimmer coverage to people with pre-existing conditions or charge them more.



AP

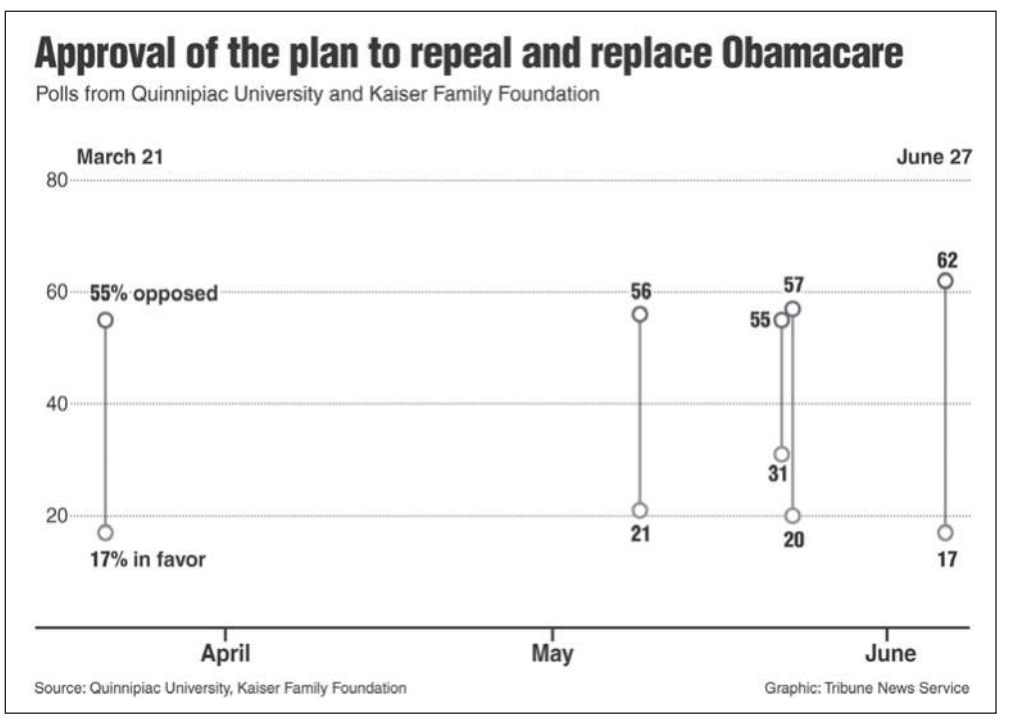
In this July 12, 2017, photo, Julian Senn-Raemont poses for a portrait in downtown Woodstock, Ill. The 24-year-old writer-musician hasn't known a world without a health care safety net and hates being forced by law to get coverage. Insurers need young, healthy enrollees like him to keep premiums down for everyone something Republicans building a replacement for the Affordable Care Act have addressed with gap-in-coverage penalties and lower prices for some young adults.

Georgetown University health policy researcher Sabrina Corlette said young adults may find the "Cruz plans" more affordable, but they should "read the fine print."

"You may end up with unexpected costs," Corlette said. "And if, God forbid, you do end up needing better coverage, you will be blocked from that coverage for six months." To encourage continuous coverage, the GOP plan installs a six-month waiting period for anyone with a two-month gap in coverage. The skimpy policies wouldn't qualify as continuous coverage.

The insurance industry also sharply questioned this approach. In a statement last week, the industry group America's Health Insurance Plans said the proposal would create an "un-level playing field" that would lead to "unstable health insurance markets."

Other features of the proposal aimed at young adults include allowing them to stay on their parents' insurance until they turn 26, as they can now, and shifting costs to older enrollees.



Current law restricts how much insurers can charge for insurance based on age. "Obamacare" limits the ratio to 3-to-1, meaning a 50-year-old can be charged only three times as much as a 20-year-old. The Republican plan shifts that ratio to 5-to-1.

More flexible pricing could attract young adults, the Congressional Budget Office said in a review of a previous draft of the Senate plan. But other provisions, including cuts to Medicaid, would result in 22 million people losing insurance over the next decade. All ages and income levels would have higher uninsured rates. For low-income young adults, CBO said, the uninsured rate would double.

A CBO analysis was expected Monday but has been postponed, according to the Senate Budget Committee. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced late Saturday he was delaying the vote on the bill while Sen. John McCain recovers from surgery.

"On the whole, the bill is bad for young people," said Jen Mishory, executive director of the youth advocacy group Young Invincibles. "It is particularly concerning for the most vulnerable young people, those who are low-income and folks with pre-existing conditions."

Young Americans, ages 18-34, remain more likely to be uninsured than older age groups, but the rate of uninsured young Americans dropped under "Obamacare" to 16 percent from 29 percent.

Obama's health law also gives them job flexibility because good health insurance was no longer tied to employment, said Republican labor economist Craig Garthwaite of Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

"That gives young adults the opportunity to find a first job that's right for their talents," Garthwaite said.

Alexandra Flores, 29, works as a library assistant at University of South Florida in St. Petersburg while pursuing a master's degree in library science. She credits the Obama health law for her decision to go back to school rather than be locked into her previous office job. She pays $77 a month for her "Obamacare" health plan. The government kicks in about $100.

"Without health care, I wouldn't feel comfortable growing my career the way I have," Flores said.

Republican proposals to ban federal funding of Planned Parenthood for a year would affect 34-year-old Renee Wsol of Chicago. A Medicaid beneficiary, she received a free IUD for long-acting birth control from the organization this year. Planned Parenthood is now her regular source of women's health care, including cancer screenings.

"I feel comfortable and safe at Planned Parenthood," she said. "It makes no sense to pluck that care away from people who already have limited choices."

Jackie Todd, 28, of Chicago, feels hemmed in by the health care debate because she would like to pursue a master's in filmmaking, but doesn't want to risk losing the insurance she has through her job. She has an implanted device for a heart rhythm problem, which will need to be replaced in two years, "and I cannot be uninsured when that happens."

"The GOP doesn't think I deserve a shot at an even playing field because being sick is somehow my fault," she said.

Good Housekeeping

18 bowls of pasta in 8 hours

By JENN HARRIS
LOS ANGELES TIMES



TNS

Orecchiette at Felix Trattoria in Venice, Calif.

LOS ANGELES—Chef Scott Conant twirls his pasta like a boss. His right hand angled, the fork at 20 degrees — the movement is fluid and effortless, like he's tumbling a quarter along his knuckles.

The chef of the new Italian restaurant the Ponte in Beverly Grove is sitting at a table at Cento, the pasta-focused lunchtime pop-up inside of Mignon in downtown L.A. that's run by Avner Lavi, a former pasta cook at Bestia and Sotto. Conant is dressed in a tailored, three-piece, navy suit, with his signature auburn mane brushed straight up and back. (If he decides to leave the culinary world, he could have a second career as a spokesman for a shampoo company. The hair hasn't elicited its own Twitter profile yet, but Conant says there was a hashtag.)

"Hey, I woke up like this," he says. "Just remember I have the intellectual property on my hair."

Cento

Conant digs into a beet pasta, one of Lavi's specialties, made with a dry pasta and a sauce of roasted beets, poppy seed and brown butter. Twirl, bite, wipe, repeat. He is through a quarter of the bowl before he comes up for air, his napkin a crime scene of smeared fuchsia and poppy seeds. This is the first hour of a three-restaurant, eight-hour, 18-bowl pasta crawl for Conant, who is known best for his pasta al pomodoro, a humble bowl of spaghetti, tomato and basil.

That pasta al pomodoro is a dish that has followed him, in one way or another, to every restaurant he has opened, including the now-closed Scarpetta in Beverly Hills, the Ponte, Fusco (his new New York City restaurant named after his grandmother) and Mora Italian, his restaurant in Phoenix.

"I actually rarely eat pasta," Conant says as he twirls more strands of spaghetti onto his fork. "I love it so much that I have to restrict myself. Otherwise I'm like an animal."

Conant is enamored of Lavi's beet pasta and another dish, spaghetti with uni. He keeps using that stereotypical Italian hand gesture — his fingertips together, his arm in an upright wave, to express his delight at the pastas.

Conant grew up in Waterbury, Conn., surrounded by Italian Immigrants from Pontelandolfo, which happens to be the inspiration for the name the Ponte.

"I think when you allow the product to shine and get out of its way, that's how you create greatness."

"I think the food scene in L.A. really speaks for itself," says Conant as he looks around the room. At 5 p.m. Lavi will pack up and the space will turn back into a French wine bar.

"I remember seven years ago when I first started coming to L.A.," says Conant, "I would go to these little random shopping centers and eat really good food, but now it's happening more and more. Chefs had really good sous chefs or cooks, and now they've gone out and are opening their own places and being creative — like this place."

Osteria Mozza

When Conant walks through the doors at Osteria Mozza, Nancy Silverton, Mario Batali and Joe Bastianich's Italian restaurant on the corner of Melrose and Highland avenues, people turn in their chairs to look. Because although Conant may not be as recognizable as Batali, he's spent considerable time on television as a frequent judge on the Food Network shows "Chopped" and busting the chops of his friend Bobby Flay on a show called "Beat Bobby Flay."

At a table in the corner of a back room, Conant asks the server to recommend some pastas, commencing a feast that will include salumi, prosciutto-wrapped grissini with truffle butter, not a few items from Silverton's mozzarella bar — and pasta. The bucatini all' Amatriciana arrives in a deep red swirl; the ricotta gnudi are surrounded by garlic scapes and English peas; the ricotta and egg raviolo comes as a single pillow of ricotta and egg swimming in browned butter; and each strand of tagliatelle is perfectly coated with a rich oxtail ragu.

Conant waits for everyone at the table to bring out their iPhones before delicately cutting into the raviolo. The yolk spills out in an orange pool.

"What are you guys going to eat?" he jokes.

With all those restaurants and all that television, you could categorize Conant as a celebrity chef, but he's quick to disagree.

"I think the day you hear me refer to myself as a celebrity chef … forget about it." He says that last bit as a single word, like he's walked straight out of that scene from "Donnie Brasco." "I don't think of myself as famous. Listen, I've always prided myself on being a good cook." He twirls a bit of bucatini onto his fork and takes a bite. "Oh, my God, that's good."

Rather, Conant refers to himself as an "old school" guy, a guy who grew up in Connecticut, and started in the kitchen as a dishwasher when he was in high school, working 60 hours a week for $5 an hour.

Felix

A couple of hours later, Conant takes in the crowd at Felix, chef Evan Funke's new pasta palace on Abbot Kinney Boulevard in Venice. He takes a seat across from Funke's pasta laboratory, a brightly lighted box in the center of the dining room, where Funke stands for hours surrounded by flour, kneading and cutting his fresh pastas.

Conant agrees to let Funke feed him, then settles in for a procession of 12 bowls of pasta — every one on the menu. First, Conant swoons over the pappardelle, delicate sheets of pasta in a ragu Bolognese "vecchia scuola" with 48-month Parmigiano-Reggiano.

"The texture is silken and smooth and not too dense," he says as he lifts a ribbon of pasta. "So good, that pappardelle. Forget about it."

The tonnarelli cacio e pepe arrives and Conant leans in to smell the plate. "You smell that pasta? You smell that flour? There's something so comforting and warm about that."

The trofie, tight little screws of pasta coated in a bright green pesto Genovese with pecornio di malga elicit exclamations of profanity from Conant, who even on his 15th bowl of the day, can't help but go in for another bite. "I'm not ready to tap out," he says. "This is good … "

Conant handles the remaining rigatoni all'Amatriciana; orecchiette with sausage; and gnocchetti in an oxtail ragu napoletana like a champ, trying more than a little of each before proclaiming Funke a "pasta master."



TNS

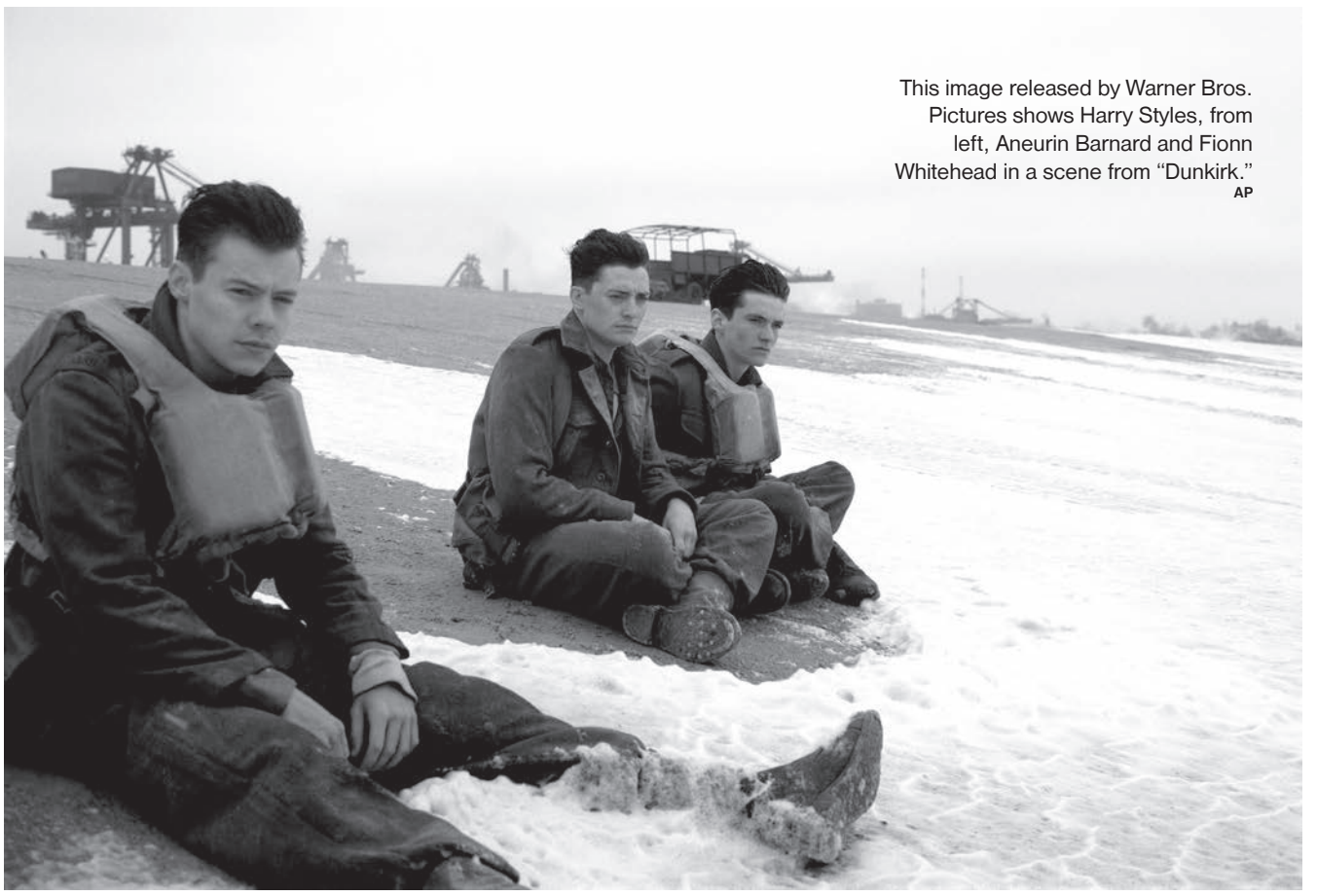
The beet pasta with goat cheese, poppyseeds and chives at Cento Pasta Bar inside Mignon in Los Angeles, Calif. during a pasta crawl with chef Scott Conant.



Life & Style

Riveting 'Dunkirk' is Nolan's, and year's, best

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Harry Styles, from left, Aneurin Barnard and Fionn Whitehead in a scene from "Dunkirk." AP

"Dunkirk " is not a typical war movie.

There are no brothers in arms, no flashbacks to simpler times and pretty wives and girlfriends left behind, no old men in situation rooms pontificating about politics or helping with exposition. There's no talk of Hitler, or Germans or battlefields or trauma or mothers. In fact, there's hardly any talk at all, or, for that matter, even any characters in the traditional sense.

But don't be mistaken: Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk" is a stone cold masterpiece.

It's a stunningly immersive survival film told in 106 thrillingly realized minutes. Nolan puts the viewer right in the action whether it's on the beach with 400,000 men queued up and waiting for a rescue that may never come, on the waters of the English Channel in the little civilian ship headed into hostile waters with only an aging man and two teenage boys aboard, or in the air above in the two lone Spitfires that are quickly running out of fuel.

I've never experienced anything quite like "Dunkirk's" intoxicating immediacy. The screen and images envelope you with urgency, dread and moments of breathtaking beauty and grace as you wait with the soldiers, as the title card at the beginning says, for deliverance.

The story begins on the ground, with a young soldier, Tommy (newcomer Fionn Whitehead) wandering the deserted streets of Dunkirk looking for water and a place to relieve himself. Propaganda flyers float down to the ground reminding the soldiers of something they're already well aware of—that they're surrounded. "Surrender + Survive!" the flyers read as Hans Zimmer's gently ominous score plays in the background telling us that while it may be calm for a moment, it is not safe. A deafening gunshot breaks the silence, and, fair warning, your racing heart will not stop for quite some time.

Nolan follows Tommy back to the beach where soldiers stand in long lines that stretch to the water, where no boats approach. His part is nearly silent, his motivations unknown. They are all haunted shells, stripped of meaningful weapons and a military purpose. He and the rest just know they need to get off the beach at any cost.

We accompany Tommy as he tries to achieve that objective which eludes him with almost comic frequency. He's the unluckiest lucky fellow out there.

Occasionally we get the sobering perspective of the higher ups, compliments of the great Kenneth Branagh as Commander Bolton.

In the air there are the two Spitfire pilots, Farrier (played by Tom Hardy, whose face is once again largely obscured but who can act circles around many of his contemporaries even with just the use of his eyes and eyebrows) and Collins (Jack Lowden). They get to be the lofty, classical heroes of war films past as they shoot down the enemy. Hardly has a film ever made you feel as in the moment as this.

And on the sea, the three civilians, Mr. Dawson (Mark Rylance), Peter (Tom Glynn-Carney) and George (Barry Keoghan) who, like so many during the Dunkirk evacuation, took it upon themselves to captain their own small vessel and journey into war dressed in their seaside knits and armed only with lifejackets and blankets to help save their country's stranded men. They're the beating heart of film, especially when pitted against a shell shocked soldier (Cillian Murphy) who is determined to stop them from going back to Dunkirk.

These narratives intertwine and loop back and repeat from different vantage points with stunning effectiveness—never seeming redundant or dull. Nolan finds suspense at every angle, and ramps up the tension with the help of Zimmer's ticking score. While, there might not be character arcs to speak of, the performances are first-rate nonetheless (even pop star Harry Styles, who might just have another viable career option).

Cameras turned off again for White House press briefing

NEW YORK (AP)—Cameras remained off Monday at the White House press briefing on orders of the Trump administration, sidelining one of daytime television's most popular features on the same day that ABC announced new digital programming tied to it.

The last on-camera White House briefing was on June 29.

Following rules set by the White House, news networks only began airing press secretary Sean Spicer's question-and-answer session until after it was done. With still pictures of Spicer onscreen as he talked off-camera, it didn't make for gripping television. Fox News Channel and MSNBC both broke away to other stories before the session was finished.

ABC News' "The Briefing Room" started airing live Monday, with White House correspondents Jonathan Karl and Cecilia Vega, and congressional correspondent Mary Bruce the show's lead personalities. The network has streamed past briefings online and on Facebook over the past several months; the new program is expected to air each day there is a White House briefing.

Without its own affiliated cable network, ABC is looking for different ways to take advantage of its expertise, said Rick Klein, the network's political director.

"We're just seeing such huge interest in the story," Klein said.

Klein said ABC, like other television networks, is pushing for the briefings to go back on camera and be shown live. It's a sentiment most prominently expressed by CNN White House correspondent Jim Acosta, who last month repeatedly asked Spicer, "Why don't we turn the cameras on, Sean?" without getting an answer.

Acosta, on the air, has complained about the Trump administration "taking us into a strange new world where accountability doesn't exist."

To a fan base that has delighted in Trump repeatedly deriding CNN as "fake news," Acosta's protests aren't likely to gain much traction. News executives and White House correspondents have yet to find a strategy to change the way things are going. Trump has given only one free-wheeling news conference since taking office nearly six months ago, and has lately restricted most of his interviews to friendly outfits like Fox News Channel.

No news organization has defied White House rules by airing the briefings live. The first audio-only briefing was heard live on news networks, primarily because the White House hadn't firmed up its rules ahead of time.

U.S. Rep. Jim Himes, a Connecticut Democrat, last week proposed legislation that would require the White House to hold at least two video news conferences a week. Himes said the previous three administrations briefed the press on camera, on average, more than three times a week.

Jury: Railroad to pay $3.9M for train death of film worker

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—A railroad owner must pay $3.9 million to the family of a movie worker killed on a Georgia railroad trestle in 2014, a jury decided Monday in civil verdict that found the company shared in the blame for the deadly freight train collision even though the film crew was trespassing.

The parents of Sarah Jones sued CSX Transportation in Chatham County State Court, saying the railroad shared blame for their daughter's death. The 27-year-old camera assistant died in the crash Feb. 20, 2014, during the first day of shooting "Midnight Rider," an ill-fated movie about Gregg Allman of the Allman Brothers Band.

"This trial disclosed a number of exceptionally poor judgments and ignored opportunities by CSX Transportation to prevent this tragedy," Jones' parents, Richard and Elizabeth Jones of Columbia, South Carolina, said in a written statement.

CSX plans to appeal the jury's decision, said Rob Doolittle, a spokesman for the Jacksonville, Florida-based company.

"CSX is deeply sympathetic to the terrible loss suffered by the family of Ms. Sarah Jones, but respectfully disagrees with the conclusions reached by the jury today," Doolittle said.

The film's director, Randall Miller, served a year in jail after pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter and criminal trespassing charges. Jones' parents said CSX also failed to take precautions that could have averted the crash on a trestle spanning the Altamaha River near Jesup in southeast Georgia.

Jones' family had also sued Miller, his fellow production managers and several other defendants. All of them except for CSX settled or otherwise resolved their cases out of court. The jury Monday found $11.2 million to be the total value of Jones' life as well as her pain and suffering. Jurors decided CSX—the only defendant on trial—bore 35 percent of the responsibility for Jones' death, making the railroad's share $3.9 million.

The jury in Savannah heard testimony during the civil trial that two CSX trains rolled through while the movie crew stood on both sides of the tracks within an hour before the crash, but the operators of those trains never called dispatchers to alert them. Jurors also were shown a CSX policy that train operators are expected to immediately report trespassers on its tracks and rights of way.

Jeffrey Harris, the Jones family's attorney, also noted that the train's brakes weren't applied until after the locomotive struck a hospital bed the filmmakers had placed across the tracks. Actor William Hurt, hired to play Allman, had been lying in the bed before the train came upon the crew at 53 mph (85 kph). Hurt escaped unharmed.

Ed Sheeran posts set picture after 'Game of Thrones' cameo

Ed Sheeran is basking in the aftermath of his "Game of Thrones" cameo.

Sheeran appeared as a Lannister soldier leading a group in song in the season premiere of the hit HBO fantasy drama, which debuted on the premium cable channel Sunday night.

The 26-year-old British singer posted a shot of himself on screen on Instagram Sunday with the caption, "Throwback to the time I was a Lannister." He also posted a picture of himself on set alongside Maisie Williams, who plays Arya Stark.

Producer David Benioff said in March that they had been trying to get Sheeran a spot on the show for years to surprise Williams, who's a Sheeran superfan. ***(AP)***

AP

This image released by HBO shows Ed Sheeran, left, and Maisie Williams in a scene from "Game of Thrones."



Prince Charles' wife Camilla Duchess of Cornwall, turns 70



Duchess of Cornwall

LONDON (AP)—Prince Charles' wife Camilla is turning 70 with few complaints, although she admits her feet are sore after a long day of royal duties.

The milestone for the Duchess of Cornwall was marked Monday with the release of an official portrait of Charles and Camilla.

She has quietly earned the public's trust after a rocky beginning to her public life caused by her relationship with Charles during his unsuccessful marriage to the late Princess Diana.

Camilla was initially blamed by some for Diana's unhappiness as she complained publicly about Camilla's continuing close relationship with Charles.

Those hard feelings faded with time following Diana's 1997 death in a car crash. Charles and Camilla married in a low-key ceremony in 2005.

Royal officials have said that Camilla will be known as the "princess consort" when Charles become king rather than take the title of "queen consort."

She has accompanied him on many foreign trips and has become a familiar figure at royal events.

Camilla has been active in many charities and on Monday was named first royal patron of The Silver Line Helpline, a charity that helps older people.

She told the Daily Mail newspaper she often feels like a teenager but realizes she is getting older because her feet are in "agony" after a long day.

Studio: Kermit actor fired for 'unacceptable' conduct

NEW YORK (AP)—The Muppets Studio is blaming "unacceptable business conduct" for its dismissal of Steve Whitmire as the longtime performer of Kermit the Frog.

This explanation, issued Monday, follows Whitmire's emotional blog post last week after his firing was made public. He said he learned last October that the role of Kermit would be recast.

Whitmire had been with the Muppets since 1978, and took over as Kermit after the untimely death of Muppets founder Jim Henson in 1990.

The Muppets Studio did not detail the nature of Whitmire's "repeated unacceptable business conduct," but said it spanned "a period of many years," adding that "he consistently failed to address" his employers' feedback.

Whitmire could not immediately be reached for comment, but in an interview Monday with The Hollywood Reporter he said the studio felt he had been too outspoken in expressing how the Kermit character should be portrayed on the ABC primetime Muppets mockumentary series that aired in 2015-16. Whitmire said he had only been trying to help keep the show "on track."

The studio said veteran Muppets performer Matt Vogel is now taking over as Kermit.

Ryan Phillippe posts hospital picture after 'freak accident'



Phillippe

Actor Ryan Phillippe has posted a picture of himself laid up in a hospital bed with a broken leg following what he calls a "freak accident."

Phillippe wrote in the caption of his Instagram post Monday that he's "going to be ok." The picture shows him with a bandage on his leg and a swollen foot.

He later explained on Twitter that he broke his leg during a family outing Sunday and it required "surgical attention," but he will make a full recovery. The 42-year-old thanked first responders and paramedics for their help.

Phillippe responded to fan speculation that he hurt himself doing a stunt for his USA series "Shooter," saying he wasn't anywhere near the set.**(AP)**

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Garth Brooks offers free honeymoon after fans get engaged

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Garth Brooks says he'll pony up for a Hawaiian honeymoon for a Texas couple who got engaged at his concert in Oklahoma City. WFAA-TV reports Drew Bargsley proposed to Chelsea Townsend while Brooks was playing his hit "Unanswered Prayers" on Saturday night. The singer got wind of the commotion and asked the Dallas-area couple about their honeymoon plans from the stage. He told them he and his wife, Trisha Yearwood, will pay for their honeymoon if they decide to go to Hawaii. Brooks later told Yearwood about his offer and she agreed, but added, "Nobody else can get engaged tonight."

Samantha Harris hosts Gordon Ramsay's new 'Culinary Genius'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Samantha Harris is the host of a Fox TV cooking contest show airing next month. Fox said Monday that Harris will host "Culinary Genius," a half-hour show produced by celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay. Harris is a former co-host of "Dancing with the Stars" and "Entertainment Tonight." "Culinary Genius" will air for three weeks on Fox owned-and operated-stations in certain TV markets. One is Los Angeles, with others to be announced. It's getting a summer tryout with viewers, following the pattern of Fox programs such as "The Wendy Williams Show" and "TMZ Live." "Culinary Genius," adapted from an English show of the same name, opens with lead chef Edward Lee giving contestants a cooking demonstration. Then the competition begins. Ramsay will appear on "Culinary Genius," which debuts Aug. 7.

Man is ready to shop around for new source of 'lattes'

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for 17 years. For the first 16 years, my wife would make me lattes without being asked. Last year, she announced she would no longer make any more lattes for me. When I asked her if she expected me to go the rest of my life without one, she said yes!

Do you think it would be OK if I found another female to make lattes for me? Wouldn't that woman be doing my wife a favor? Hint: I am not really talking about lattes.

NO MORE LATTES IN KOKOMO

DEAR NO MORE LATTES: Before outsourcing your latte business, it is important that you find out from your wife why her attitude has changed so drastically. Has she lost interest in that kind of beverage preparation? Has making lattes become painful for her? Could there be other issues in your relationship that have made her less interested in giving you your favorite treat?

If the answer to these questions is yes, perhaps she should discuss them with her doctor—or the two of you talk about them with a licensed marriage counselor. Hint: I'm really not advising you about lattes, either.

DEAR ABBY: After 33 years of what I thought was a near-perfect marriage, my husband walked out and filed for divorce. That was 12 years ago. Since then, I've done my best to move on and find my "next chapter."

I'm now in the process of downsizing to move into a smaller house. While going through my filing cabinet, I ran across some very sweet and touching love letters my ex had written to me—some of them just a few weeks before he left me. I am having a hard time deciding whether to throw them away or keep them. I know there's no perfect answer, but any advice you could offer to help me make that decision would be appreciated. It's a sensitive topic for me.

LOVE LETTERS IN TEXAS

DEAR L.L.: I'll bet it is. How does reading those touching love letters make you feel? Be honest. If they bring back warm memories, hang onto them. However, if they have the opposite effect, do yourself a favor, dispose of them and continue looking forward into your next chapter.

DEAR ABBY: I live in a mobile park, and in the park is a group that collects money and runs fundraisers to help the low-income people who live here. They deliver one bag of food to about 10 families once a month.

This group does not disclose how much money was collected—ever—wand are very secretive about how much they have in their fund. Some of us who live here have raised the question as to how much money they are holding, but they refuse to give us any information. They say they are not a nonprofit, so they don't have to report to the IRS. Is there anything we can do to make them tell us how much is in there?

MONEY MATTERS

DEAR MONEY MATTERS: There absolutely is. Poll how many of your neighbors feel the way you do, and then, as a group, stop contributing money. If enough residents do that, the money will dry up and the fund will close. Because only 10 families need this kind of help, you and your neighbors should consider selecting families to help and do it directly.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

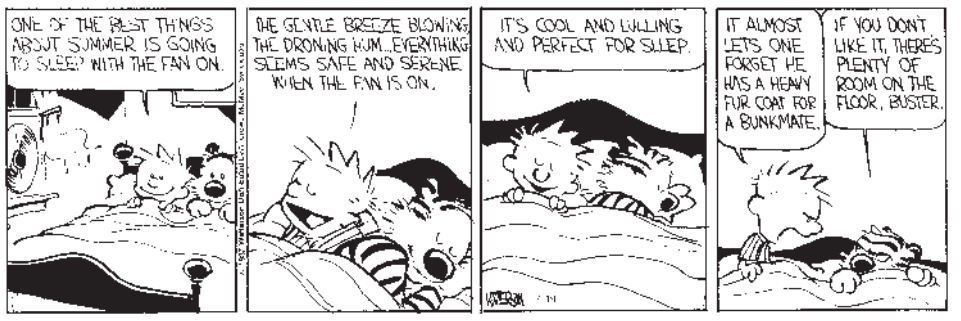


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

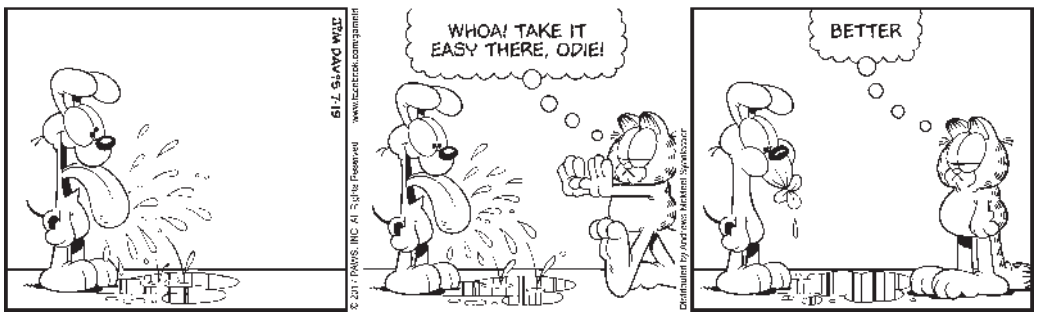
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



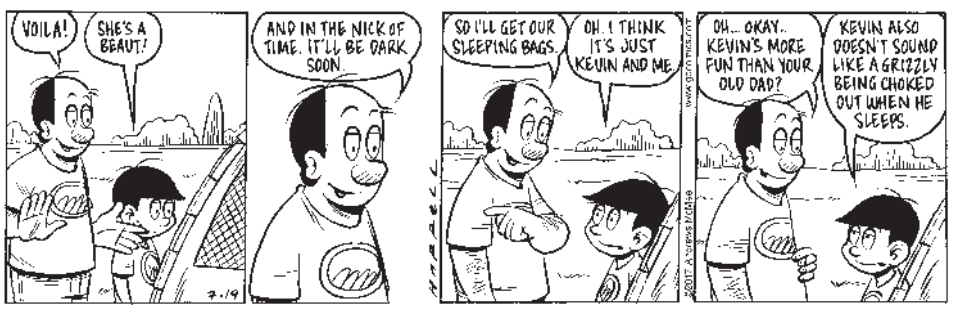
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



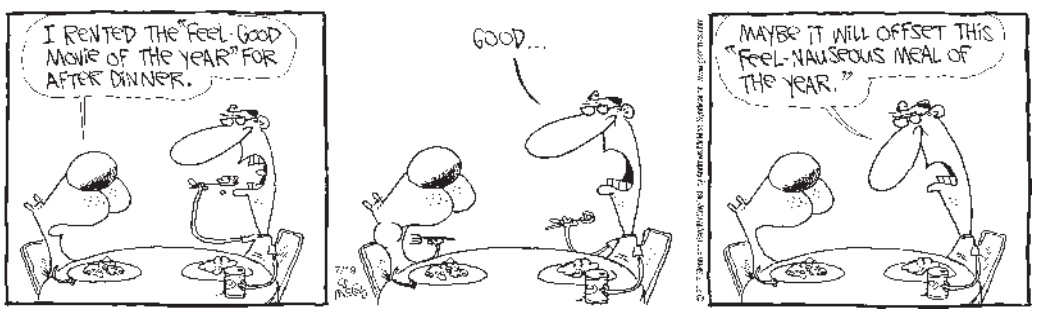
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Furry foot
4 Billboards
7 Actress Moore
8 Binge
10 Admit
11 Alliance
13 Tinseltown trophies
16 D.C. figure
17 Bar orders
18 Have debts
19 Hideaway
20 Mayberry moppet
21 Ship's rear
23 "Over the Rainbow" composer
25 Reverberate
26 Pivot
27 Scratch
28 Stares stupidly
30 Orange Muppet
33 Boxers
36 "Sense and Sensibility" heroine
37 Sudden shocks
38 France's longest river
39 Probability
40 Born
41 Feathery wrap

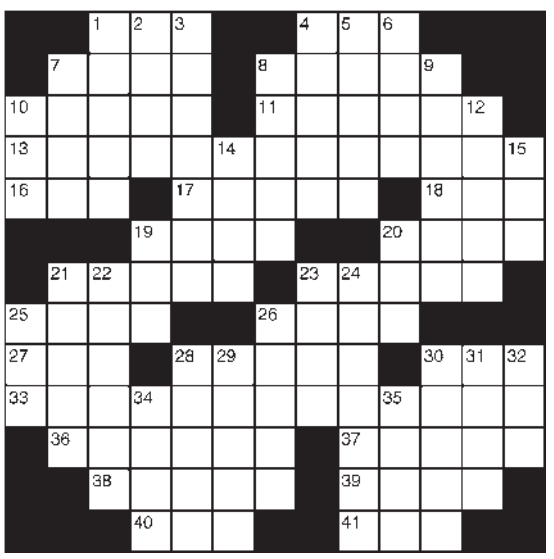
DOWN

1 Peony part
2 During
3 Reception amenity
4 "... partridge in — tree"
5 Ties
6 Video game giant
7 Erte's style
8 More cagey
9 Italy's continent
10 Napkin's place
12 Track legend Moses
14 Chow —
15 Observe
19 Zodiac feline
20 Flamenco cheer
21 Petrify
22 Excite
23 Shake — (hurry)
24 Work that's done ASAP
25 Napoleon's title (Abbr.)
26 Steeple
28 Bottled spirit?
29 Earlier, in verse
30 Nintendo princess
31 Scraps
32 Curvy letter
34 Utah national park
35 Commotion

Solution time: 23 mins.

G	A	G	A	■	G	N	U	■	F	L	I	P
A	S	F	C	■	R	O	T	■	I	O	T	A
N	E	A	T	■	I	D	E	O	L	O	G	Y
G	A	R	N	E	T	S	■	M	I	N	O	S
■	■	■	O	K	S	■	D	N	A	■	■	■
C	R	O	W	E	■	T	R	I	L	O	G	Y
P	A	N	■	■	P	R	Y	■	■	P	F	A
A	P	O	■	C	G	Y	■	J	E	T	T	Y
■	■	■	A	V	A	■	C	A	L	■	■	■
O	M	E	G	A	■	A	L	B	E	R	T	A
M	I	X	O	L	O	G	Y	■	C	O	O	P
A	■	P	O	■	R	E	D	■	T	O	R	E
N	O	O	N	■	E	S	E	■	S	K	Y	S

Yesterday's answer 7-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Trai Byers, 34; Anthony Edwards, 55; Campbell Scott, 56; Brian May, 70.

Happy Birthday: Only change what isn't working for you. Don't feel the need to be impulsive or to keep up with someone else. It's important to follow your dreams and to decide what's important to you, not how others see or judge what you do. Truth lies within and striving to be the person who makes you happy is all that counts. Your numbers are 1, 8, 13, 26, 30, 34, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Look at all aspects of a situation before you sign up to take part. If you want to alter the way you live, make sure you aren't going to upset someone in the process. Communication will clear a passageway to progressive action. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Improve your home environment. A cozy place to put your feet up and read a good book or watch a movie will help ease your stress and give you a chance to rethink the personal changes or contributions you want to make. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Expressing the way you feel and what you would like will help you open a window of opportunity. Look at all your options and consider how you can stay under budget and get what you want. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Dealing with others can be tricky. Concentrate on getting what needs to be done out of the way and move on to the activities and events that are most meaningful to you. Children and seniors will make valid suggestions. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Expand your interests by helping others. What you physically do will be far more penetrating than offering cash. Use your connections and your experience to make a difference to someone or something you believe in. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep your mind on what's important. Don't let emotions take over or your love life put a dent in your ability to get things done. Discipline and hard work will help you avoid being criticized or blamed for incompetence. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get firsthand information. Someone will try to sidetrack you if given the chance. Make personal improvement plans. Aim to make a physical change or one that will improve your attitude. Romance is featured. Initiate your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Personal improvements can be made. Take the initiative and get into shape or begin a project that will challenge you enough to bring about positive change. Learn something new that you can incorporate into your work. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Treat partnerships with care. If something doesn't add up, ask questions. Someone is likely to hide the truth from you. Be open and honest about the way you feel and what you want. Communication will help eliminate doubt. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Gather information, facts and knowledge that will help you avoid a financial mistake. Don't let someone take advantage of your time, talent or experience. An open and honest discussion can help you stop someone from taking advantage of you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can make some awesome changes at home and to your own personal appearance with a little imagination and flair. Let your creative side take over and your physical attributes help you turn your dream into a reality. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Emotional problems will surface due to withholding information or dealing with someone who has something to hide. Proceed with caution and refrain from making promises you won't want to keep. Focus on personal changes and gains. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, popular and playful. You are quick-witted and adventuresome.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	3			7	8		
2			1	7			4	
8			3				6	
7			4				9	
	9	8			6	1		
6			5				7	
3			8				2	
5			2	1			3	
	2	6			5	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	2	9	1	7	4	5	3
4	5	9	8	3	6	7	2	1
1	7	3	2	5	4	9	8	6
6	3	7	5	4	9	8	1	2
9	2	1	7	8	3	6	4	5
5	8	4	6	2	1	3	7	9
7	4	5	3	6	2	1	9	8
2	9	6	1	7	8	5	3	4
3	1	8	4	9	5	2	6	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI (1928-2017) Solution: 9 letters

D	L	S	R	E	D	A	E	L	L	I	G	C	M	D
E	Y	L	E	L	O	R	O	S	S	E	F	O	R	P
T	N	T	E	C	B	C	V	E	Y	F	N	A	A	A
A	D	T	I	O	A	A	I	M	E	T	O	D	L	J
C	O	A	N	R	N	D	M	I	R	B	V	C	O	M
I	N	D	T	C	U	I	H	E	S	I	Y	H	H	C
D	S	E	E	T	J	C	A	S	S	T	N	O	C	O
E	R	U	S	P	H	L	E	O	I	S	A	I	S	L
D	H	S	D	I	S	H	R	S	O	K	A	C	R	B
N	A	Z	N	R	C	E	R	N	I	G	R	E	I	T
A	R	A	E	D	W	E	M	M	V	I	A	A	O	E
L	V	P	N	O	V	H	S	I	L	O	P	M	M	I
O	A	A	P	I	I	D	E	O	L	O	G	Y	E	V
P	R	I	N	C	I	P	L	E	G	I	B	Z	M	O
G	D	U	K	R	A	I	N	E	D	B	E	N	E	S

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Advisor, Benes, Bonds, Carter, Chief, China, Choice, Dedicated, Emilie, Game, Grand Chessboard, Harvard, Ideology, Jimmy, Johnson, Leaders, Leonia, Lyndon, Mark, McGill, Memoirs, Mika, Montreal, Papers, Poland, Polish, Power, Principle, Professor, Role, Scholar, Security, Soviet Bloc, Studies, Tadeusz, Ukraine, University, Vance, Z Big

Yesterday's Answer: Outdoors

Treasuries 13 through 28 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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$25/per person for water, power not included

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FAX (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR CLAIMANTS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of : **CIVIL ACTION NO.: 04-0564**
MARCELA UNTALAN HOFSCHNEIDER, :
Deceased. :

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 8, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the rights, title, and interest of Marcela Untalan Hofschneider in and to the following property: Lot 101 T 05, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. This lot contains an area of 25,037 square meters. It is believed that the Estate of Marcela Untalan Hofschneider is the owner of an undivided 13,777 square meters in the said lot.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 28, 2017, at the hour of 4:00 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 28th day of June, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RICHARD BENAVENTE SEMAN, Deceased,) CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0144) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 27, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 220A before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
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TEL.: (670) 234-6457
FAX (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MICRONESIA MARIANAS DISTRIBUTING CORPORATION Plaintiff, -v- FREDDY U. HOFSCHNEIDER, JR., Defendant. : **CIVIL ACTION NO.: 92-0250** and consolidated cases (C.A. Nos. 93-0808, 00-0496, 01-0203, 01-0515, and 01-0560; and S.C. Nos. 99-1074, 00-0012, 00-0053, and 00-0108

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on November 3, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot no. 057 T 130, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,000 sqaure meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 057 T 03 dated December 22, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 90-1771, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 28, 2017, at the hour of 4:00 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 28th day of June, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance July 20, 2017 at 9:30 am at the Mayor of Saipan Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes from June 29th, 2017
II. **Public Comments**
III. **Reports**
   1. Administrator
   2. Chair
   3. COMMITTEES
      a. Committee on Awards
      b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
      c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
      d. Committee on Program and Development
      e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
IV. **Old Business**
   1. SHEFA on Disability
   2. NMTI Request for Open Enrollment
   3. Saipan Local Law 19-06
V. **New Business**
   1. Fall 2017 Application Status
VI. **Executive Session – Appeals (closed)**
VII. **Misc.**
VIII. **Next Meeting**
IX. **Adjournment**

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 I Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2017-CDA-08-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Friday, July 21, 2017 • TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"FINANCIAL & COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2017 AND 2018"

Copies of the proposal may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor, CDA Bldg., Oleai, Saipan, during regular working hours, by facsimile at 235-7147 or on our website at www.developcnmi.com.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
Executive Director

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement and Supply

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://www.opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB17-OPA-01 (A-B)

SUBMISSION DATE: August 2, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"LEASE OF TWO (2) NEW FOUR DOOR MINI SUV"

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI OPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC §130-30-725 AND §130-30-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY BID PROPOSAL IF IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ MICHAEL PAI, CPA
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/s/ CHRISTIAAN WALLACE
PROCUREMENT OFFICER/OFFICE MANAGER

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It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 07/07/17 **Closing Date: 07/21/17***

JVA#17-010: **Trades Technician I**
Annual Salary: $18,329.33
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Tinian

JVA#17-011: **Marketing Specialist I**
Annual Salary: $23,394.03
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#17-012: **Accountant II**
Annual Salary: $25,791.92
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

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• 3-Liner	$15	$30
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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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No passing fancy: Lonzo Ball looks like ideal fit for Lakers

By KAREEM COPELAND
AP SPORTS WRITER



AP
In this July 7, 2017 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Lonzo Ball shoots over Los Angeles Clippers' Brice Johnson (10) during overtime of an NBA summer league basketball game, in Las Vegas.

Lonzo Ball seems to be just what the Lakers needed.

Yes, it's only summer league, but Los Angeles is mired in a playoff drought and in much need of some excitement. Enter the No. 2 pick in the draft.

Ball has created a buzz around the Los Angeles franchise—on and off the court.

He has averaged 16.3 points, 9.3 assists and 7.7 rebounds in six summer league games in Las Vegas. The California native with Showtime-like flair has two triple-doubles and four double-digit assist games while leading the team to Monday night's championship game. He will miss the final contest with a mild calf strain.

His absence Monday is almost throwaway line in the final chapter of Ball's summer league story.

The 19-year-old made more headlines wearing different brands of sneakers each game.

"All press is good press, technically," Finish Line content manager and creative strategist Brandon Edler said. "Just the fact that we continue to talk about their every single move is amazing for their brand. ... Maybe his dad is just on a completely different level and he's sitting there thinking, maybe this isn't a great way to sell the shoe, but we've got everybody talking about us and every time somebody's talking about us, that's great for Big Baller Brand."

After wearing his own ZO2 shoes in his first two games, which sell for $495, Ball wore the Nike Kobe AD and a James Harden signature Adidas in the following games. It was Under Armour's turn Saturday when Ball played in a pair from Stephen Curry's signature line. Jordan Brand got in the mix Sunday when Ball wore the Jordan 31 low.

Ball and his boisterous father, LaVar, just might be marketing geniuses with how they've kept his sneaker choice as headline news despite turning down lucrative offers from the major brands.

The sneaker rotation is clearly a deliberate plan and LaVar continues to tell people he's asking for a $3 billion deal with one of the major companies.

Many have criticized the hype machine and multiple summer league players have said they wouldn't wear the ZO2. But those same players were supportive, even envious, of the concept of having their own independent fashion and sneaker line.

The Ball method is certainly unconventional. Rarely does someone promote their own brand by featuring products from other companies. But Lonzo said that's part of the Big Baller Brand—having the independence to do what one wants.

"I don't think it makes a much sense from a marketing perspective to speculate on the reasons," emailed Dana Alden, department of marketing chair at the University of Hawaii's Shidler College of Business. "From a brand equity building point of view, one would not expect the owner of a given brand to promote competing brands. Thus, I don't see a clear marketing explanation."

The circus atmosphere off the court somewhat overshadows what Ball has done on the court.

Ball has impressed with is play-making skills.

It all makes the 6-foot-6 Ball seem like an ideal for La La Land.

He grew up in the suburb of Chino Hills and the City of Angels is used to big point guards with next level passing ability. Fellow rookie Kyle Kuzma has averaged 20.5 points per game in large part due to Ball's pinpoint passes.

Lakers president of basketball operations Magic Johnson immediately laid out his expectations after drafting Ball—for the rookie's number to hang from the Staples Center rafters. And the former UCLA star is making the architect of Showtime and owner of five championship rings look like a soothsayer.

"Passing translates, I don't care what level you're on," Johnson told Lakers.com. "Lakers fans are thirsty. ... This team will be exciting and it starts with that point guard position. "

Lakers fans in Vegas are all on board for the Ball era.

"I like the idea the Balls are taking control of their own lives and trying to start their own brand and do things their way," said Mark Appelbaum, 51, who sat courtside in a Kobe Bryant high school jersey. "It's brought life and excitement back to the Lakers because Lonzo brings life and excitement with the way he plays.

"I don't look at it as being brash I look at it as being confident. ... I think it's funny that people are making a big deal about it, he's just doing what he wants."

Houston Rockets owner Alexander is selling team

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston Rockets owner Leslie Alexander is selling the team.

Rockets CEO Tad Brown made the announcement Monday, hours after Alexander made the decision.

"It's been my great joy and honor to own the Houston Rockets for the past 24 years," Alexander said in a statement. "I've had the incredible opportunity to witness true greatness through the players and coaches who have won championships for the city, been named to All-Star and All-NBA teams, enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame, and done so much for our franchise and our fans."

Alexander took over as owner on July 30, 1993, and the Rockets went on to win back-to-back titles in 1994-95. In 24 seasons under Alexander, the Rockets have won 56.9 percent of their games, fifth-highest in the league.

Brown said the 74-year-old Alexander had been approached over the years by potential buyers, but never considered it until very recently.

New Knicks regime open to moving on with or without Carmelo

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—The New York Knicks' new regime is ready to move on with or without Carmelo Anthony.

New president Steve Mills said Monday the Knicks have been talking to teams about a trade and will continue looking for a deal that works for the organization and its All-Star forward.

"But we also feel that Carmelo could easily be a part of our team next year, and we have to understand how we're going to play and what the expectations of how we're going to play, and we're going to move forward," Mills said. "So maybe with Carmelo or maybe without Carmelo."

Mills also ruled out a buyout of Anthony's contract, which has two years and about $54 million remaining and might be an easier route to a breakup than a trade.

Phil Jackson had been eager to deal Anthony before he and the Knicks parted ways last month. Mills was promoted to president and the Knicks hired Scott Perry as general manager.

They said the Knicks will focus on youth and athleticism, which doesn't seem to leave room for the 33-year-old Anthony. But they added that veterans will still have a place in mentoring the young talent.

Anthony has a no-trade clause and has told the Knicks he would agree to a deal with Cleveland or Houston. But the Knicks don't want to take back long-term contracts, which makes finding a deal difficult. Now Mills has Perry to help him find one.

"From our vantage point, we made a decision as we were getting closer to hiring Scott that I felt it was important for us to slow down, regroup as it related to the trade scenarios of Carmelo," Mills said.

Perry has served in the front offices of Sacramento, Orlando, Seattle and Detroit, where he was part of the Pistons' run of six straight trips to the Eastern Conference finals and an NBA championship. It was there where he said he learned the lessons about culture that the Knicks sorely need as they try to dig their way out of the dismal Jackson era.

"In terms of Detroit, people talk about culture all the time, about winning cultures," Perry said. "I think the biggest thing I learned there, you can have a lot of signs and printouts that have a lot of fancy statements, but at the end of the day you've got to live culture every day."

Mills, Perry and coach Jeff Hornacek detailed the vision they have for a franchise that emphasizes pride, work ethic and accountability. It sounds like another rebuilding stage, as Mills singled out the team's young core and noted that the Knicks have all their first-round picks going forward.

But he believes New York fans are open to a rebuild if players are committed and play with passion. The Knicks barely did that in three years under Jackson, going 31-51 last season in Hornacek's first year.

That was overshadowed off the court by the Anthony saga and on it by the Knicks' difficulty in grasping and sticking to an offense. Hornacek was supposed to open things up, but Jackson decided midway through the season he wanted a renewed focus on the triangle that he ran as a coach.

"I don't think we were restricted," Hornacek said. "We were trying to meld some different ways you play basketball. We just weren't able to do it the way we wanted to, but we're moving forward."

They didn't talk much about what went wrong under Jackson, preferring to focus on the future during their news conference at the team's training center. Mills and Perry said they have a strong relationship, with Mills saying the first-time GM would be given room to make decisions and recommendations pertaining to the coaching and scouting staff.

And with the Knicks insisting they would be accountable —as did Jackson, though he never talked to the local media during his final season - Perry said he would be straightforward and available as much as possible.

"I see myself as a bridge builder, not a bridge destroyer, so I'm looking forward to the opportunity," he said.

Seager, Valencia hit HRs in 10th to lift Seattle over Astros

HOUSTON (AP)—Kyle Seager and Danny Valencia hit back-to-back homers in the 10th inning to lift the Seattle Mariners to a 9-7 win over the Houston Astros on Monday night.

The wild back and forth game was tied at 7 entering the 10th when Seager, who finished with three hits, connected off Tony Sipp (0-1) on a shot to the seats in right field. Valencia added an insurance run when he launched a slider to center field three pitches later.

Mike Zunino and Nelson Cruz also homered for the Mariners as they tied a season high with four homers to win their fifth straight game.

Yovani Gallardo (4-7) allowed a hit and two walks in a scoreless ninth for the win and Edwin Diaz struck out two in a scoreless 10th for his 17th save.

Cruz tied it in the seventh and Zunino put Seattle on top with his homer in the eighth. A sacrifice fly by George Springer scored a run to tie it at 7-7 in the bottom of the eighth.

Jake Marisnick and Carlos Beltran both homered for the Astros on a night when All-Star shortstop Carlos Correa left in the fourth inning after jamming his left thumb on a swing.

Twins 4, Yankees 2

In Minneapolis, Eddie Rosario had two RBI doubles and Eduardo Escobar added the go-ahead, pinch-hit single in the eighth inning to help Minnesota over New York.

Brian Dozier had two hits and Adalberto Mejia gave up one run and struck out four in 5 1/3 innings for the Twins, who were tied 2-2 when Escobar delivered a base hit to left field off left-hander Caleb Smith (0-1). Rosario followed with his second double of the game, and Brandon Kintzler picked up his 26th save as light rain turned into a steady downpour at Target Field.

Yankees star slugger Aaron Judge went 0 for 3 with an intentional walk and is 1 for 21 since his electric performance in the All-Star Home Run Derby.

Taylor Rogers (5-1) pitched 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief for the win.

Cubs 4, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Jon Lester (6-6) bounced back from the shortest start of his career by allowing only one run in seven innings and Chicago stopped Atlanta's ninth-inning comeback.

The Cubs led 4-1 before Atlanta scored two runs in the ninth off closer Wade Davis and loaded the bases with two outs.

Davis allowed one-out singles to Brandon Phillips and Freddie Freeman before Phillips scored from third on a wild pitch. Matt Kemp followed with a run-scoring single and pinch-runner Lane Adams stole second and moved to third on Tyler Flowers' flyball to the warning track in center field.

Following an intentional walk to pinch-hitter Matt Adams, pinch-runner Dansby Swanson stole second, leaving runners on second and third. Davis walked Sean Rodriguez, playing in his first game of the season, to load the bases.

Johan Camargo's fly ball to shallow left ended the game, giving Davis his 18th consecutive save this season.

Julio Teheran (7-7) allowed two runs and five hits and four walks in six innings.

Indians 5, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Josh Tomlin struck out five and pitched into the eighth inning to win back-to-back starts for the first time this year, and Cleveland capitalized on two costly errors to beat San Francisco.

Tomlin (6-9) allowed six hits and three runs without walking a batter in 7 1/3 innings. Cleveland snapped a season-high four-game skid with its first victory against the Giants in the last seven tries.

San Francisco starter Matt Moore (3-10) hit an RBI single in the third before a wild throw did him in, and the Giants dropped their fourth straight home game.

Cody Allen finished for his 17th save as the defending AL champs improved to just 4-11 in interleague.

Blue Jays 4, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Steve Pearce hit a solo homer, then added the go-ahead single in the eighth inning in Toronto's victory over Boston.

The Blue Jays led 3-0 after two innings but Boston scored three in the seventh. Toronto went back in front in the eighth when Pearce singled to score pinch-runner Ezequiel Carrera from third.

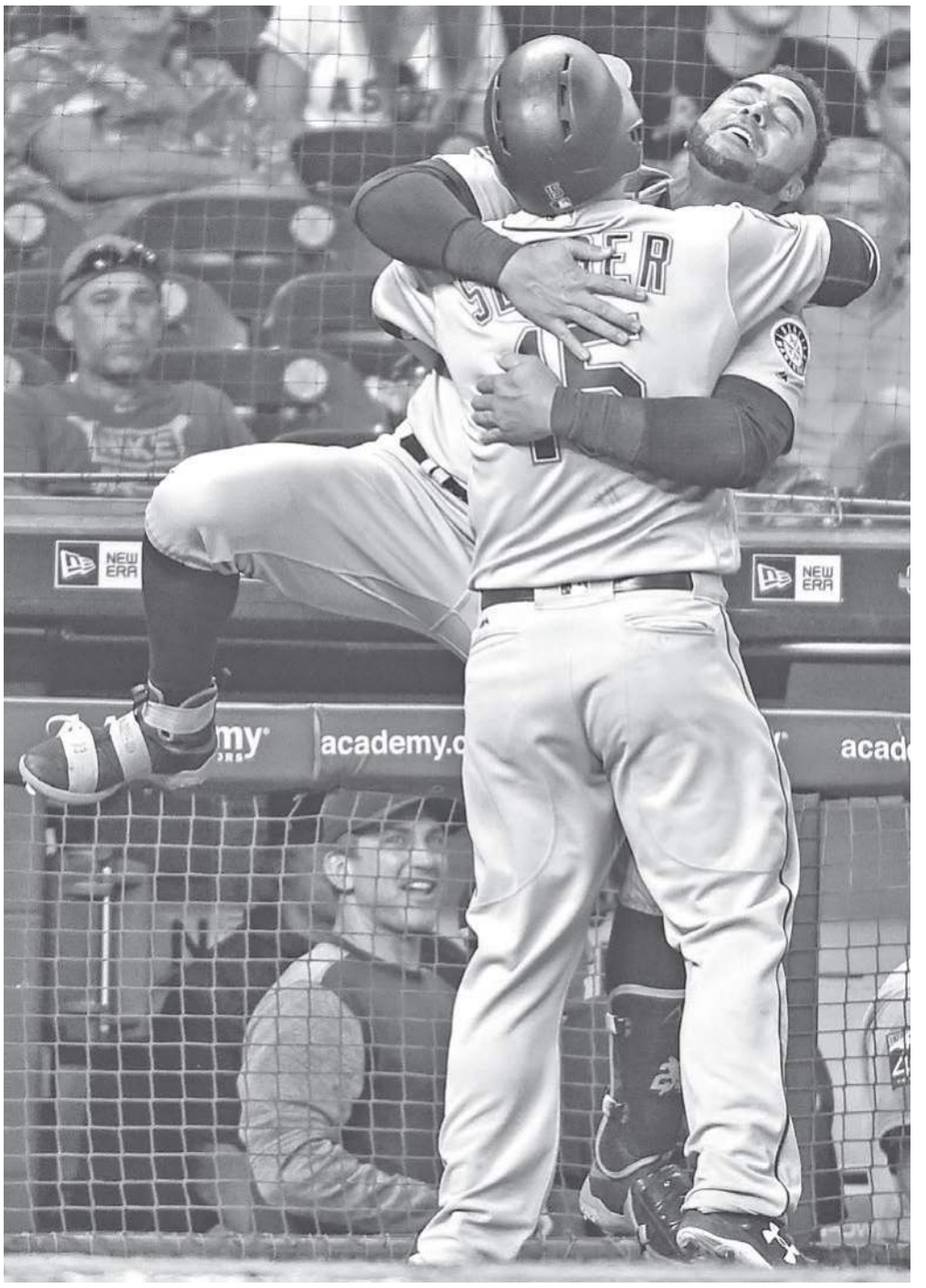
Ryan Tepera (5-1), who started the eighth, was credited with the victory even though Leone was the pitcher of record when the winning run scored. Baseball rule 9.17 (c) instructs the official scorer not to award a victory to a reliever who makes a short, ineffective appearance.

Roberto Osuna pitched the ninth for his 23rd save. Heath Hembree (1-3) took the loss.

Nationals 6, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Ryan Zimmerman set the Nationals' career home run record with a solo shot, and Bryce Harper connected again as Washington powered its way to a victory for a four-game sweep of Cincinnati.

Zimmerman's 235th career homer moved him ahead of Vladimir Guerrero for most in Expos and Nationals history.



AP

Seattle Mariners' Kyle Seager hugs Nelson Cruz after hitting the go-ahead home run off Houston Astros' relief pitcher Tony Sipp during the 10th inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 17, 2017, in Houston.

Stephen Strasburg (10-3) recovered from his shortest start of the season by fanning 11 in seven innings and allowing four hits, including Eugenio Suarez's homer.

Scott Feldman (7-7) lasted only one inning. He gave up a double, a single, Harper's three-run homer and Zimmerman's solo shot in his first 12 pitches. Feldman left after facing nine batters and giving up five runs on 33 pitches.

Rays 3, Athletics 2

In Oakland, California, Jake Odorizzi and two relievers combined on a two-hitter, helping Tampa Bay beat Oakland.

Steven Souza Jr. hit his 19th home run, Evan Longoria also went deep and reached base three times while Adeiny Hechavarria added two hits for the Rays, who won for the third time in four games since the All-Star break.

Odorizzi (6-4) bounced back from his worst start of the season and went seven innings while striking out five and walking two. Alex Colome retired three batters for his AL-leading 27th save.

Daniel Gossett (1-5) allowed three runs in seven innings, including the homers to Souza and Longoria.

Rockies 9, Padres 6

In Denver, Charlie Blackmon 's fourth leadoff homer of the season hit the facing of the third deck, hard-throwing rookie German Marquez tied a career high with nine strikeouts and scuffling Colorado beat San Diego.

Trevor Story added a two-run double as part of a five-run third to help the Rockies win back-to-back games for the first time in nearly a month.

Marquez (7-4) allowed three runs over 6 2/3 innings. He perplexed the Padres by effectively mixing in his curve with a 98 mph fastball.

Greg Holland got Matt Szczur to ground out following a two-out double in the ninth to earn his 29th save in 30 chances.

San Diego starter Luis Perdomo (4-5) had his three-game winning streak halted after surrendering seven runs, five earned, over 2 1/3 innings.

Tigers 10, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Nicholas Castellanos and Mikie Mahtook went deep, Jordan Zimmermann smothered the Royals with strikes and Detroit proceeded to trounce Kansas City to open a four-game series.

Ian Kinsler added three extra-base hits for the Tigers, who knocked American League wins leader Jason Vargas (12-4) from the game after 2 2/3 innings in his first start since the All-Star break.

Zimmermann (6-7) allowed one run and seven hits without a walk in 6 2/3 innings, throwing 79 of 97 pitches for strikes. His dominance was partly a result of first-pitch strikes to 24 of the 28 batters he faced, which helped the right-hander win for the first time since June 3.

Pirates 4, Brewers 2

In Pittsburgh, Gregory Polanco doubled twice, drove in two runs and threw out a potential go-ahead run at the plate to lead surging Pittsburgh over Milwaukee.

Brewers catcher Stephen Vogt left the game in the fifth inning after a collision with Pirates pitcher Chad Kuhl at the plate. Vogt caught an incidental elbow to the head from Kuhl, and both players were down for several minutes. Kuhl remained in the game, but Vogt had to be helped to his feet and left to be evaluated for a neck strain and left knee strain. Vogt held onto the ball and Kuhl was called out.

Polanco finished 4 for 4 and is hitting .446 this month. Francisco Cervelli added two hits for the Pirates, who pulled within six games of the first-place Brewers.

Daniel Hudson (2-4) picked up the win in relief of Kuhl when Polanco nailed Manny Pina at the plate in the sixth to preserve a tie. Polanco drove in Josh Bell in the bottom of the inning off Josh Hader (1-1) to put the Pirates in front. Felipe Rivero retired the last four batters for his seventh save.

Cardinals 6, Mets 3

In New York, Paul DeJong homered against New York for the fourth straight game and Adam Wainwright hit an RBI double while winning his fourth consecutive start.

With runners at the corners in the bottom of the ninth inning, slugger Yoenis Cespedes grounded into a game-ending double play on a 3-0 pitch from Brett Cecil.

Tommy Pham capped a six-run sixth with a three-run homer on Hansel Robles' second pitch since returning from the minors.

Michael Conforto and Lucas Duda homered off Wainwright (11-5), who beat scuffling starter Zack Wheeler (3-7) for the second time in 10 days.

Orioles 3, Rangers 1

In Baltimore, Seth Smith hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning and Baltimore used a strong performance by its struggling pitching staff to beat Texas.

Smith connected off Andrew Cashner (4-8) to make it 2-1, Baltimore's first lead since the All-Star break following a three-game sweep by the Chicago Cubs.

Chris Tillman allowed one run and two hits over six innings. Richard Bleier (2-1) pitched a scoreless seventh, Mychal Givens had a perfect eighth and Brad Brach completed the three-hitter for his 16th save.

Marlins 6, Phillies 5, 10 innings

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton homered twice and Dee Gordon hit an RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning that sent Miami over Philadelphia.

Gordon lined a single to right-center off Mark Leiter Jr. (1-2) for the Marlins' fourth walk-off win of the season.

Drew Steckenrider (1-1) pitched a scoreless 10th.

Redskins QB Cousins to play another season on franchise tag

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP SPORTS WRITER



AP
In this photo taken Jan. 1, 2017, Washington Redskins quarterback Kirk Cousins (8) passes during the first half of an NFL football game against the New York Giants in Landover, Md.

Kirk Cousins will be the first quarterback in NFL history to play consecutive seasons on the franchise tag.

Cousins and the Washington Redskins didn't sign a long-term deal by the deadline Monday. He will make $23.94 million on the franchise tag in 2017 after earning $19.95 million last year.

Team president Bruce Allen said in a prepared statement that the Redskins' goal was to sign Cousins to a long-term contract and offered him $53 million guaranteed or $72 million in the event of injury. That would have been the second-most fully guaranteed money given to a QB behind Aaron Rodgers' $54 million.

"Despite our repeated attempts, we have not received any offer from Kirk's agent this year," Allen said. "Kirk has made it clear that he prefers to play on a year-to-year basis. While we would have liked to work out a long-term contract before this season, we accept his decision."

Cousins' agent, Mike McCartney, declined an interview request made before Allen issued his statement. Allen said the team's offer was made May 2 and that he met with Cousins face to face over the weekend.

The 28-year-old Michigan State product is going into his third full season as Washington's starter. Cousins set franchise records with 4,166 and 4,917 yards the past two seasons, but has yet to win a playoff game.

Oakland's Derek Carr signed a deal last month that guarantees him $40 million. Carr has also not won a playoff game, but has played only three pro seasons, Cousins will head into his sixth NFL campaign and was a backup to Robert Griffin III to start his career.

In 46 games, including 41 starts, Cousins has completed 65.6 percent of his passes for 12,113 yards, 72 touchdowns and 42 interceptions.

"I think Kirk has proved that he's in the top 15 quarterbacks," recently promoted senior vice president of player personnel Doug Williams said last month. "Wherever you want to put him it all depends on who's looking at him in this league for what he's done in this league. I know a lot of people say he's got to win this one, he's got to win that one, but I think Kirk has proved that he can play in this league."

Cousins and executives called negotiations positive, and they may go through this again next spring. If Washington uses the franchise tag again for 2018, Cousins would get a 44 percent raise to $34.47 million, or they could use the transition tag on him at a cost of $28.78 million.

The transition tag would allow the Redskins to match any offer but would not give them any compensation if he left. Cousins has no shortage of admirers around the league, most notably former Washington offensive coordinators Kyle Shanahan, now head coach of the San Francisco 49ers, and Sean McVay, now coach of the Los Angeles Rams.

Chief negotiator Eric Schaffer said the Redskins weren't trying to "win a championship" with their contract and said there was a positive dialogue with Cousins' camp.

"Kirk is a really good player and he's a Redskin and we only want him to be here," Schaffer said. "I would express that."

Asked by former QB Joe Theismann if he wanted to be a member of the Redskins, Cousins said yes and called it "an easy answer."

Carolina fires general manager Gettleman after 4 seasons

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Carolina Panthers fired general manager Dave Gettleman on Monday, eight days before the team reports to training camp.

Owner Jerry Richardson said in a statement he made the decision after a long evaluation of the team's football operations.

"I want to thank Dave for the role he played in our success over the past four seasons," Richardson said. "While the timing of this decision is not ideal, a change is needed."

Gettleman had been Carolina's general manager for four seasons, when the Panthers went 43-26-1. But Carolina was 6-10 last season a year after reaching Super Bowl 50, where it lost to Denver. The Panthers had won the NFC South his first three years at the helm.

Gettleman made some business decisions that were unpopular with fans after taking over for Marty Hurney in 2013. Among them: cutting star wideout Steve Smith before the 2014 season and running back DeAngelo Williams in 2015, then allowing cornerback Josh Norman to become a free agent in 2016 after rescinding the franchise tag. Norman signed with Washington.

Williams, now a free agent after two seasons with Pittsburgh, tweeted he would consider returning to the Panthers "due to the firing of that snake Dave Gettleman!"

Smith, arguably the franchise's most popular player, never took the move well.

After learning of the news of Gettleman's firing, Smith tweeted "It's Okay! Dave I know how you feel..."

Linebacker Thomas Davis is in the final year of his contract and was hoping for an extension before the start of training camp. Pro Bowl tight end Greg Olsen is also hopeful of an extension, although he has two years left on his current deal.

The Panthers report to Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, on July 25 and have their first practice the following day.

Richardson did not say who would be responsible for personnel in the interim. The Panthers are also without a team president after Danny Morrison resigned in February.

Former assistant general manager Brandon Beane left in May to become Buffalo's general manager, reuniting him with Sean McDermott, who was Carolina's defensive coordinator for six seasons (2011-16).

Gettleman is the second NFL GM fired in less than a month. Kansas City fired John Dorsey on June 23.

TEEN

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nawa, Japan in the past before opting to play on Saipan this year.

The visiting team will test the Teen Ayuyus, who are playing a series of friendly and training matches in preparation for its campaign in the AFC U19 Championships Qualifiers. The CNMI youth players are in Group J of the qualifier and will challenge North Korea, Australia, and Hong Kong in the Oct. 31 to Nov. 8 tournament with the venue yet to be announced.

Meanwhile, Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament will give way to the friendly game between the Teen Ayuyus and Hualien and will have its Friday matches rescheduled for tomorrow.

The same games will be played with Kanoa Football Club 1 taking on SSS in the first match at 3pm in the U12 co-ed division, Saipan Elite battling HK SSS in the 4pm tiff in the boys U16, and F. Marinos taking on Marianas Health Armada in the girls U17 matchup at 5pm.

In today's games, Kanoa FC 1 faces Kanoa FC 2 at 3pm, while Hakone FC and Isamu United collide in the 4pm match, and 4Gives meets NMI U16 at 5pm.

FISHING

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the second place award and $1,500 cash with its 201.75-lb marlin, while the *DGBY* of captain Jess Taitano got the third place trophy and $1,000 prize.

In the yellowfin tuna division, the *Rosemary*'s 22.30-lb catch gave captain Tom Aguon the first place honors and $1,000, while the *AJ* of captain Bob Hudkins settled for second place and $750 for its 21.10-lb catch.

The *Dela Paz* of captain Peter Mendiola, with its 12.40-lb yellowfin, rounded out the Top 3 and received $500.

In the wahoo category, the Jesse Taitano-skippered *Jesus Maria* finished ahead of the field and was awarded $1,000 after hauling a 30.15-pounder. Ray Sablan's boat placed second and took home $750 for reeling in a 28.40lb catch, while *Trophy Bayliner* of Joaquin Namaoleg was ranked third and got $500 for its 28.05-lb wahoo.

In the skipjack division, *My Lady Gora* of captain Jesse Aldan and anglers Bernard Reoligio, and Jason and Ignacia Aldan led the Top 3 finishers and earned $750 after landing a 21.45-pounder. Captain Nito Nieto and his *Maya* caught a 19.95-lb skipjack to take second place and $500, while the Antonio Maestro-skippered *St. James* finished third and received $250 with its 19-lb catch.

There were no winners in the mahi category of the tournament organized by Saipan Fishermen's Association last Saturday and Sunday off the waters of the CNMI.

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the first time and will race in the 100m and 200m freestyle contests. The Grace Christian Academy student's seed times for the tournament in Budapest are listed at 1:10.66 and 2:33.74 in the 100m and 200m freestyle, respectively. However, Thompson earned her best time in the 100m freestyle early this month when she clocked in at 1:09.66 in the 69th Annual Keo Nakama Invitational in Hawaii.

Villacrusis will also race in the 100m freestyle event with a seed time of 1:00.30. He broke the 1-minute barrier during the same Hawaii meet after posting 59.37 seconds. The tournament in Budapest will be the Mt. Carmel School student's second world championships event as he also saw action in the 13th FINA World Swimming Championships (short course) in Ontario, Canada last year. Villacrusis swam in the 100m freestyle event, too and timed in at 58.42.

Though competing in the world stage is not new to him, the 17-year-old swimmer can still feel the nerves.

"This event is long course so I am kind of nervous because I've only been to a FINA short course meet," said Villacrusis. "I am very thankful for being able to represent the CNMI in the world's biggest swim meet. I get to meet new people and watch elite swimmers race so it is a good learning experience. This opportunity is not given to many people so I will do my very best."

Besides the 100m freestyle event, Villacrusis will also compete in the 100m breaststroke where his seed time is listed at 1:18.57. The SSC swimmer has a new personal best in the 100m breaststroke after recording 1:18.48 in the Hawaii meet early this month. The seed times submitted to the world championships were made before Villacrusis and company participated in the 69th Annual Keo Nakama Invitational.

Meanwhile, Chentsova and Boyer will also race in two events each. The 17-year-old Boyer will compete in the 100m butterfly and 100m freestyle where his seed times are listed at 1:07.51 and 1:01.47, respectively. The U.S.-based Chentsova will do the 100m backstroke and 400m freestyle races.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICNA LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	52	42	.553	—
Tampa Bay	50	44	.532	2
New York	47	44	.516	3½
Toronto	43	49	.467	8
Baltimore	43	49	.467	8

Central Division

Cleveland	48	43	.527	—
Minnesota	47	45	.511	1½
Kansas City	45	46	.495	3
Detroit	42	49	.462	6
Chicago	38	52	.422	9½

West Division

Houston	62	31	.667	—
Seattle	47	47	.500	15½
Texas	45	47	.489	16½
Los Angeles	46	49	.484	17
Oakland	42	51	.452	20

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	56	36	.609	—
Atlanta	45	46	.495	10½
Miami	42	49	.462	13½
New York	41	49	.456	14
Philadelphia	30	61	.330	25½

Central Division

Milwaukee	52	43	.547	—
Chicago	47	45	.511	3½
St. Louis	45	47	.489	5½
Pittsburgh	45	48	.484	6
Cincinnati	39	53	.424	11½

West Division

Los Angeles	64	29	.688	—
Arizona	53	39	.576	10½
Colorado	54	41	.568	11
San Diego	40	52	.435	23½
San Francisco	35	59	.372	29½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kensington 1st Anniversary Golf Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Champion Myung Sun Choi, left, is presented with the first place certificate by Micronesia Resort Inc. chief executive officer and president Matthew Park, during the awards ceremony for the Kensington Hotel Saipan First Anniversary Golf Tournament last Saturday.



Runner-up Sung Jin Kang, left, poses with Micronesia Resort Inc. chief executive officer and president Matthew Park after getting his award.



Third placer Su Ro Kim, left, shakes hand with Micronesia Resort Inc. chief executive officer and president Matthew Park.

Jay Santos watches his ball roll in hole No. 7 of the Coral Ocean Point Golf and Resort.



A golfer raises his cap after making a birdie in hole No. 7.



Kevin McCale eyes hole No. 7 before hitting the ball.



A golfer takes his time before teeing off at hole No. 4.



A golfer lines up his ball on the green of hole No. 3.



No passing fancy: Lonzo Ball looks like ideal fit for Lakers

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Sports

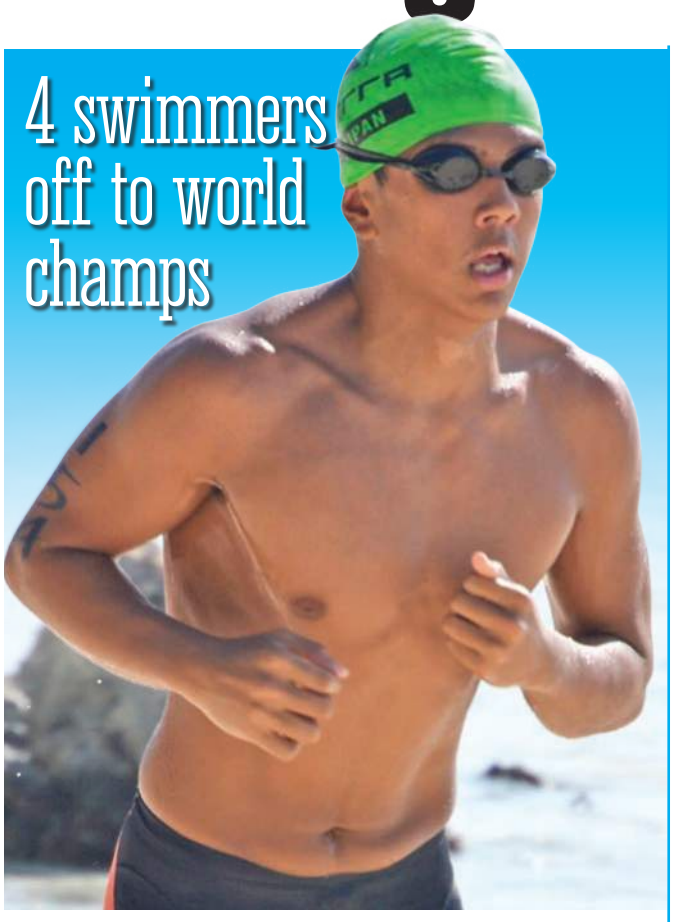
Seager, Valencia hit HRs in 10th to lift Seattle over Astros

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Fishing tourney winners feted

4 swimmers off to world champs



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Christian Villacrusis is among the four swimmers who will represent the CNMI in the 17th FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four swimmers are heading to Budapest, Hungary this week to represent the CNMI in the 17th FINA World Championships.

FINA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BUDAPEST 2017

Jinju Thompson left Saipan last night, while Christian Villacrusis and David Boyer will fly to Incheon, Korea today for their connecting flight to Budapest. The fourth member of the CNMI Team, Victoria Chentsova, will be coming from Massachusetts and reunite with her teammates and coach Valrick Welch this Saturday. The four Commonwealth swimmers will begin competing in the long course meet on July 23 (July 24 on Saipan) at the brand new and state-of-the art Dagály Swimming Complex, joining more than 3,000 athletes from over 200 countries in the 17-day event (June 14 to 30).

"I am so honored to be given the opportunity to represent our island. I am excited to swim hard and hopefully get good times. It's an exciting adventure and I really appreciate all the help that my coach (Jacoby Winkfield) has given me. I am so thankful for this and I can't wait to see some of the fastest swimmers in the world," said Thompson, the youngest member of the squad at 14.

Thompson will be participating in a world championship event for

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Debbie 1 captain Roque Chaco, third right, and his anglers and family members pose with the perpetual and championship trophies they won in the 33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament during the awards banquet last Monday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Debbie 1 had its name placed on the perpetual trophy of the Saipan International Fishing Tournament as the Roque Chaco-captained boat was officially declared the grand prizewinner of the 33rd edition of the competition.

Roque and his anglers Randal, Ronaldo, Ray, and Tony Chaco, and Romy Magan also received $3,000 cash, a championship trophy, $500 worth of gift certificates from Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods, and one-night stay at Hyatt Regency Saipan for landing the heaviest single catch in last weekend's tournament—a 384.50-lb marlin.

"We will come back next year to get the win again," Roque said after the awards banquet of the event at the Magellan's of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Other winners in the two-day tournament also got their prizes in last Monday's awards ceremony.

In the total weight category, the *San Juan* won and pocketed $1,000 for its 231.05-lb marlins. In the billfish, the *Aquaholics* of captain Tony Flores was handed the $2,000 first place purse and a trophy after reeling in a 344.50-lb marlin. The Vincent Castro Blas-skippered *Brett II*, on the other hand, brought home

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Teen Ayuyus vs Hualien FC Women's Team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Hualien FC Women's Team, seen here posing for a group photo, will play the CNMI Boys U18 National team in a friendly game this Friday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team will play in a friendly game against Hualien FC Women's Team this Friday at 4pm at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Hualien is one of the clubs under Chinese-Taipei Football Association and according to Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita, 10 members of the club used to play for the Chinese-Taipei Women's National Team. Currently, five of its players are called up to represent Chinese-Taipei in the 2018 AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualification.

Mita added that the squad ruled the 2016 Chinese-Taipei Women's League and since the competition started in 2014, Hualien has topped the league three times. The squad has been conducting a yearly training camp and had made stops to Guam and Oki-

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